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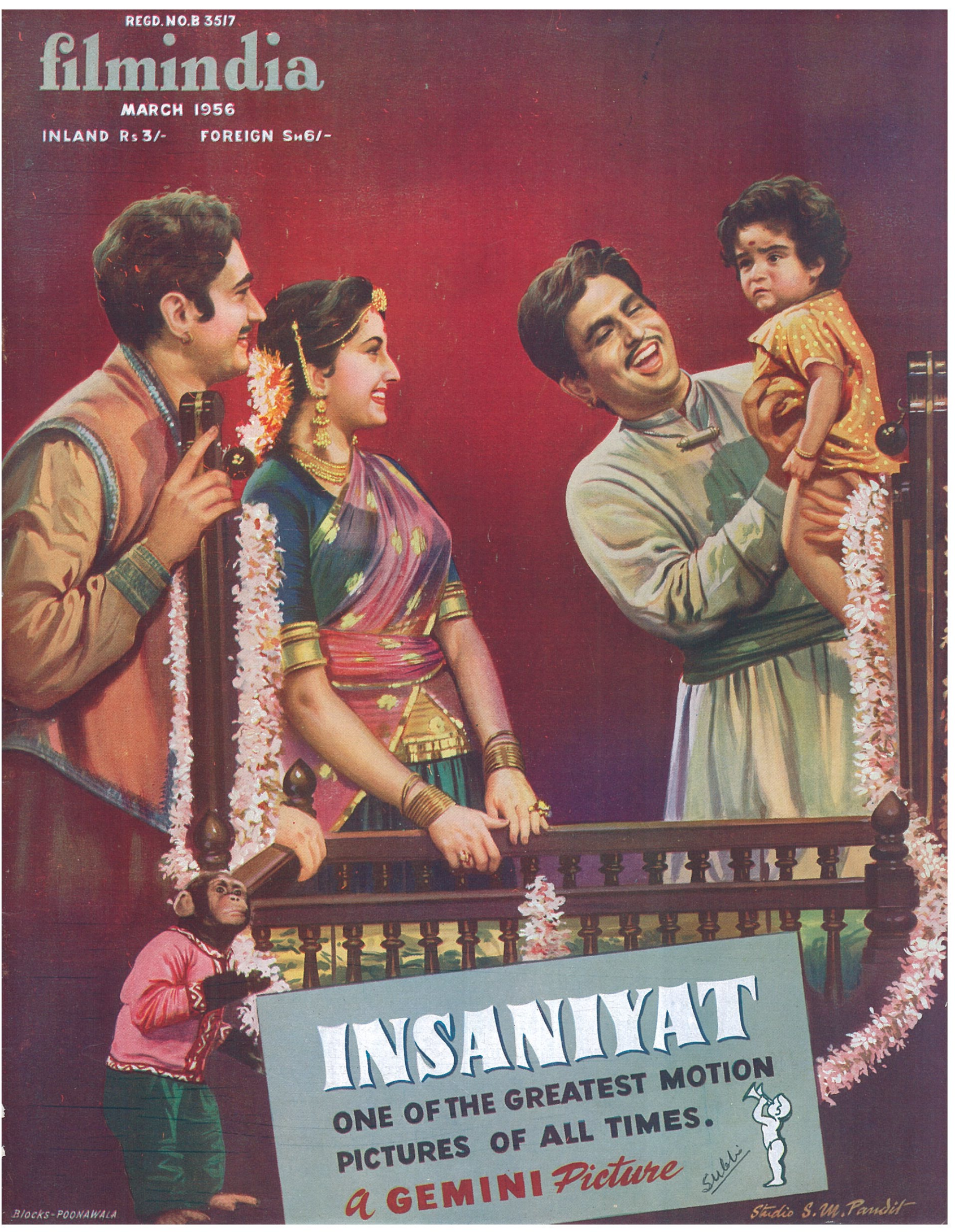

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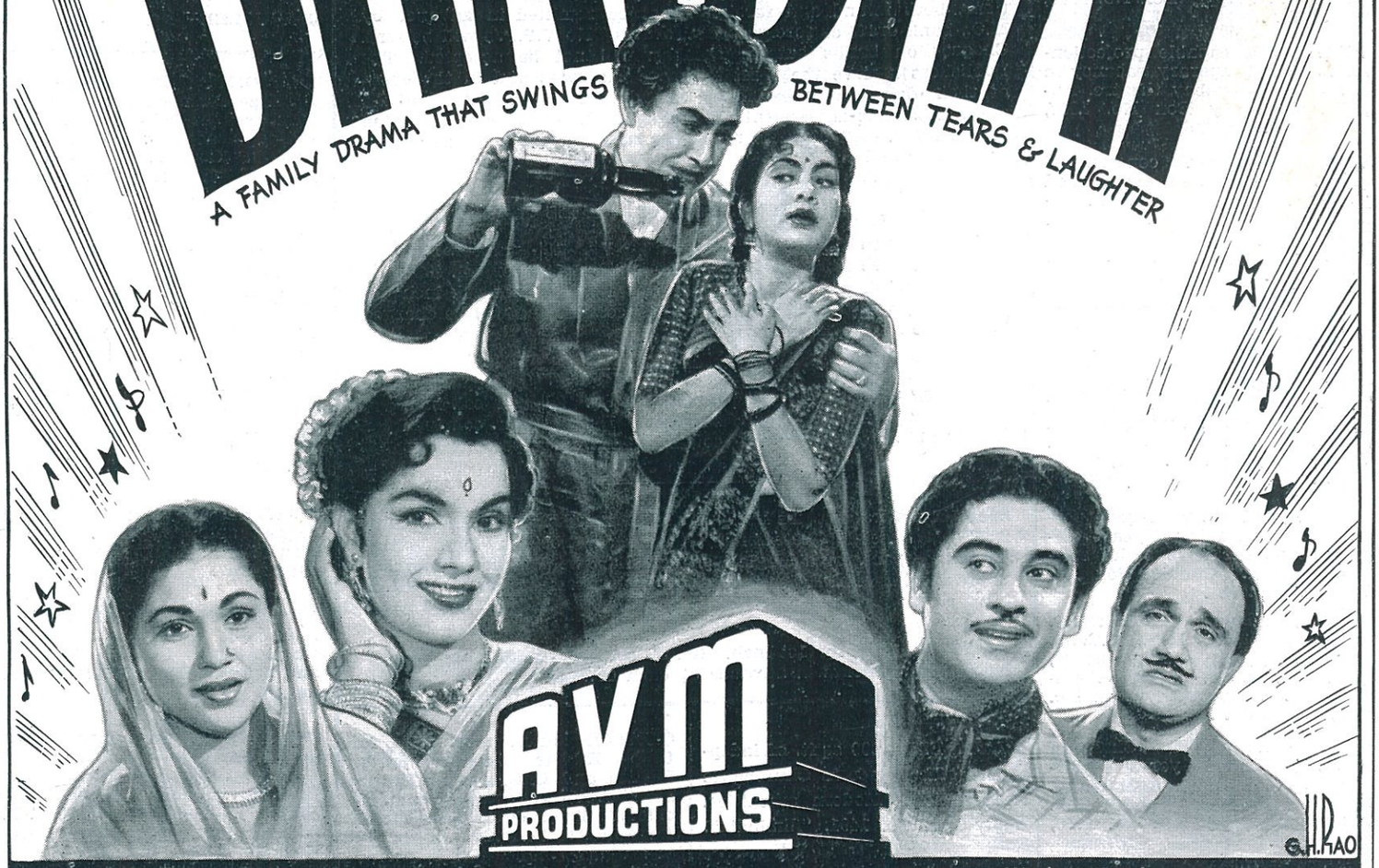

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THE MAGAZINE THAT SELLS ITSELF SELLS A THOUSAND THINGS!

Corpses Of Fear

"Ajeeb tamasha!" (a strange burlesque). That is how Pandit Nehru described, in sheer annoyance, the Akali procession in Amritsar when he found a poor audience for his own speech in the Congress pandal.

Irritated by the unique success of Master Tara Singh's Akali Conference, which was attended by over 2,00,000 Sikhs from all over the Punjab, including hundreds of beautiful Sardarnis in their most colourful costumes — an audience which Nehru usually loves to regale with his speeches and which he badly missed at his own Party "tamasha", Nehru said, "It is a strange "tamasha" that while we are passing these resolutions, big processions should come out in Amritsar. I am not complaining against anybody for taking out processions. Let them take out these processions both in the morning and in the evening or, for that matter, on all 365 days of the year. But I would only tell you that we should not get ourselves absorbed in cheap things and waste our time in taking out processions."

Nehru's utterance conclusively proves that the 61st session of the Congress at Amritsar flopped miserably. In spite of cancelling the admission fee and issuing an open invitation to all, hardly ten thousand people could be induced to step into the Congress pandal and sit there for some time. Tara Singh had two major attractions in his Sikh carnival: free food for 2,00,000 bearded ones and a generous sprinkling of Sardarnis to lend colour to the show. The Congress had Nehru and the Chaplin-moustached Dhebar. The first one is old and bent now while the second one is not taken seriously yet as a leader of anyone or anything. When Dhebar rose to speak at Amritsar people began to walk out of the pandal and one frequently heard the pathetic plea from the rostrum: "Panditji ke naam ke waste baith jayiye". It is reported that thousands of Congressmen attended the Akali carnival as honoured guests attracted by the free and tasty food and the colourful atmosphere created by hundreds of Sardarnis. You cannot blame these Congressmen for seeking some relief from sermons, sadism, stupidity and socialistic pattern of society let loose in the Congress meetings since Avadi.

But was Nehru justified in describing Tara Singh's Akali show as "ajeeb tamasha", "cheap things" and scoffing at it by saying: "We should not get ourselves absorbed in cheap things and waste our time in taking out processions."

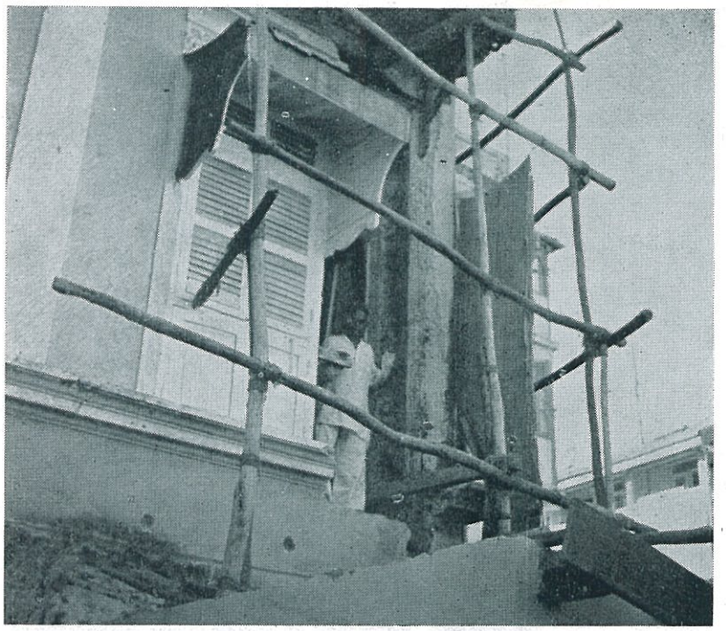
According to the Congress god processions are a waste of time. Let us now read a newspaper report of the 61st Congress Session:

"The 61st Congress Session got off to a spectacular start with phenomenal crowds drawn by the presidential procession (mark the word "procession") today. The whole city turned out in a festive mood to watch the colourful four-mile procession (mark the word "procession") in brilliant sunshine.

Tourism cannot be popular in India unless a tourist meets such travellers on the way—travellers that carry all their belongings on their back and can belong to another without having to shift a home. Nirupa Roy is always a very pleasant accident wherever one meets her but they say she is specially attractive in "Apsara", a romantic tale of flirts from heaven.

"Every vantage point was occupied. Housetops and balconies were full. The more agile sat on trees to get a grand-stand view of the decorated streets and the "tamasha" below.

"Yellow-turbaned Sikhs (the Congress ones evidently) and peasants were predominant in the procession (mark the word "procession" again). Along with Congress volunteers, ex-I.N.A. men, scouts, school children, 'sadhus' and others, they went past on camels and horseback, bullock carts and cycles, jeeps and tractors, and



A wall of our well-known author's house at 407 Kalbadevi Road, Bombay, came down one night in February 1956, giving the world famous author of "Mahatma" the extra comfort of moving in and out of the house without having to open the door. The staircase having rolled down a little earlier friends had to hold all conversation from a lower floor. Author D. G. Tendulkar, personal friend of Pandit Nehru, is seen standing in the midst of the Roman ruins of his home which neither the Municipal Commissioner nor Morarji Desai nor even Pandit Nehru could compel the landlord to repair. Had Tendulkar been buried under the debris, we would have been at least spared the sight of a living man suffering in mind and body in Nehru's India.

on foot. Many groups danced the Bhangra and the horse dance.

"There were bands of every description. They played popular film and wedding tunes with determination and vigour, even if occasionally out of tune.

"The Congress President, Mr. Dhebar, was cheered as he drove by. Petals were showered upon him. Many innocents thought they had come to see "Jawaharlalji" (cheated even in this by the Congress).

"Schools, shops and offices were empty.

"Mr. Dhebar arrived in a special train. The locomotive was decorated with tricolour sashes and flowers..... The Congress President's jeep was escorted by Congress volunteers and motor-cycle outriders. Two lots of white balloons were released.

"Conspicuous in the procession (note the word "procession") was a section of sturdy bullocks driven in teams, their horns painted in the three colours of the Congress flag.

"The route was something like a radio "commercial".

"The President was presented with a necklace made of 61 gold sovereigns and 61 hundred-rupee notes by Bijli Pahalwan, a citizen of Amritsar." (A report dated February 7, 1956 from the "Times of India" News Service in the "Times of India" English, as supervised by Mr. Frank Moraes, the editor of "Times of India".)

The Congress procession thus contained yellow turbaned Sikhs, scouts, schoolchildren, sadhus, camels, horses, bullock carts, jeeps, tractors, Bhangra and horse dancers, band playing film songs with vigour and determination, rose petals, motor-cycle outriders, white balloons, bullocks with painted horns and Dhebar, the President, wearing a gold necklace of 61 sovereigns and carrying 61 crisp hundred-rupee notes in his hand.

This procession, according to Congressman Nehru, cannot be called a "cheap thing" because it is a Congress procession. This procession does not "waste our time", according to Congressman Nehru, because it is a Congress procession.

Well, that is what Nehru thinks of his own Congress burlesque but millions of Indians don't agree with him these days because a political party, that demands sacrifices and prescribes an ascetic design for living to the people in the name of the nation, has no right to indulge in this rich and stupid pomp and pageantry merely to take a white-capped monkey in a procession year after year.

The blood, toil and tears, which the ruling Congressmen constantly demand from the people to build a great nation, must be put to serious use and not wasted in staging such burlesques of power at seasonal intervals. For, nation-building, as Nehru himself says so often, is a serious job. How then does he justify the "ajeeb tamasha" which his white-capped monkeys stage every year? And with what face can he condemn the Akalis for their spectacular "tamasha"?

From Nehru's jealous outburst against the Akalis, it is obvious that Congressman Nehru is a very small man who airs his democracy when it benefits his political party but does not tolerate democratic demonstrations by others — particularly when such demonstrations succeed in licking a Congress show. That is hypocrisy, not democracy.

Whether we like it or not — and we don't like it because we are also Congressmen — Master Tara Singh, the Akali rumbler, stole the show from the Congress with his 2,00,000 armed and bearded Sikhs, his free kitchen and hundreds of beautiful Sikh women in multi-coloured costumes. And Tara Singh rode on an elephant, which Dhebar did not do. Had he done so he would have probably made the elephant look small.

Why did Master Tara Singh, an old Congress Sikh collect 2,00,000 bearded ones of his race in a spectacular rally in Amritsar right at the time when Nehru's annual Congress pageant was being held? Everyone knows that Tara Singh is a fearless man with no personal ambition. Tara Singh has spurned money and faced bullets all his life. He respects Nehru but he is not scared of him. He rode an elephant in the midst of his brave 2,00,000 Sikhs to show to Nehru how big his grievance was. But what is his grievance?

Tara Singh wants a Punjabi speaking state to be known as Punjabi Suba. And the reason which this honest old Sikh gives is: "As the corrupt ministers of

the Congress Government have brought the country to the verge of ruin and are chiefly responsible for the present critical situation, I desire that the Congress Government must be ousted." 2,00,000 armed Sikhs ratified this statement with continuous applause and it was lucky they did not rush to seek the remedy into the Congress pandal across the road, otherwise we would have lost all the Congress ministers, both honest and dishonest, within an hour. We must thank Tara Singh for this mercy.

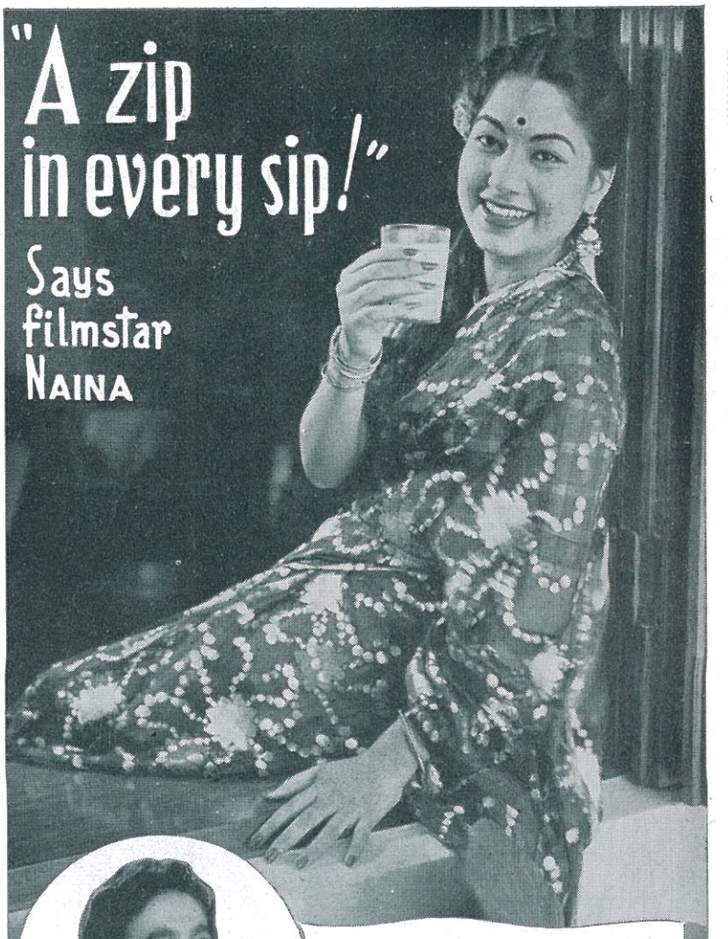
Tara Singh purposely convened the Akali Conference at the time of the Congress Session. He wanted Nehru to see how many Sikhs backed him in his demand for Punjabi Suba. He wanted Nehru to realize that armed Sikhs, who rush into danger like mad and blind men when roused, can be turned into a disciplined force when necessary. And yet Tara Singh is prepared for bullets and bloodshed any minute. That is the whirlwind our nation is expected to reap for the wind sown by the Congress.

The dream of Samyukta Maharashtra is already painted in blood. Over a hundred people have died so far, over 300 have been injured and over 700 are in jail. 900 shops were looted and property worth several crores was destroyed. And all this because our Congressmen wanted to cut the present Bombay State into three pieces and deny each the justice it deserved. And for all this, by his own confession, Maulana Azad is responsible. Said the Maulana in the Congress Session: "I would here state that the suggestion for making three states in this region emanated from me." This Muslim is evidently not satisfied with the bits he and his Congress colleagues made of India in 1947. He is still at the game of cutting. Maulana's whispering suggestion did prove very effective seeing its grim sequel. And his suggestion provided a Roman sport to Maulana's Muslims who enjoyed the sight of Hindus killing Hindus over a silly quarrel.

What is the quarrel in Bombay? The Maharashtrians want Bombay but not the Gujaratis. The Gujaratis also want Bombay and don't mind the Maharashtrians. It is a mixed quarrel of new loves and old hatreds and has now reached such a stage that no one knows how to settle it.

In Orissa, the recommendations of the States Reorganization Commission pulled the trigger of emotions of a peace-loving people and on January 20, 1956, Orissa was virtually cut off from the rest of the world. "Direct action" launched by the people, led by Malati Chaudhuri, wife of the Chief Minister, paralysed postal, train and radio services and resulted in leaving behind a dozen dead and hundreds wounded. The damage was over a crore of rupees. This was a quarrel over the districts of Seraikella and Kharswan which the Oriyas claim from Bihar.

Madrasis love trains. Their great passion for stopping, looting and wrecking trains doesn't require much provocation. On January 17 they shouted, "We will not give up Peermade and Deviculam. We want Madras ministers to resign." No one in the world had ever heard



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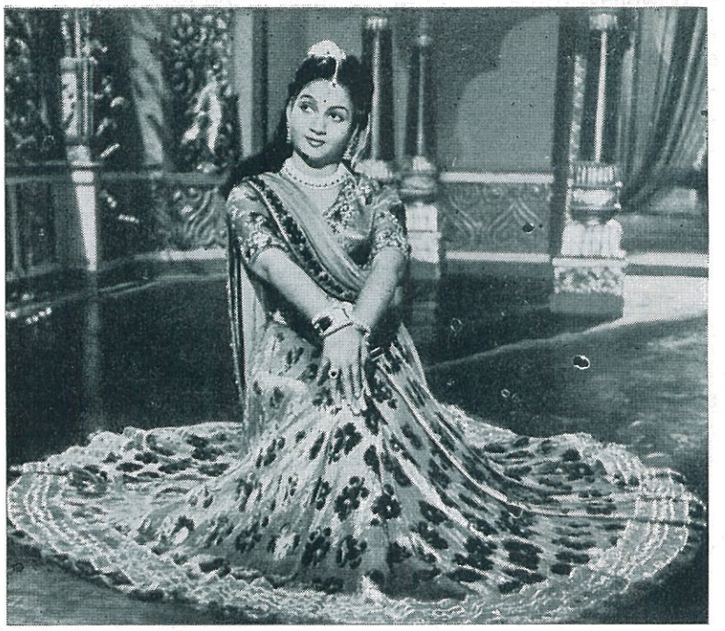
of these two places but on January 20, the Tamilians observed complete hartal and rushed to the trains to stop and stone them at Salem. The agitation is temporarily suspended but we shall have to keep more trains handy when the little Madrasis begin their popular game again.

In Bihar, students usually decide the destiny of the State. On January 18, they raided sweetmeat shops, smashed electric bulbs and rushed through the streets screaming "We won't give Purulia and Kishanganj sub-districts to West Bengal." A hundred thousand persons soon squatted on the railway lines between Kishanganj and Katihar Junction and on January 22, an angry mob



The skirt makes curves more tantalizing and when a woman is as pretty as Anjali things become exciting in "Devta", a romantic tale directed by Pattanna and produced by Narayanan and Company.

caught hold of a little Madrasi — V.K.B. Pillay, I.C.S., Secretary of the Union Ministry of Health — and extorted from him an official assurance that the districts in dispute shall not be transferred to West Bengal. The poor Madrasi thus assumed supreme authority for a minute and saved his wife from being a widow.

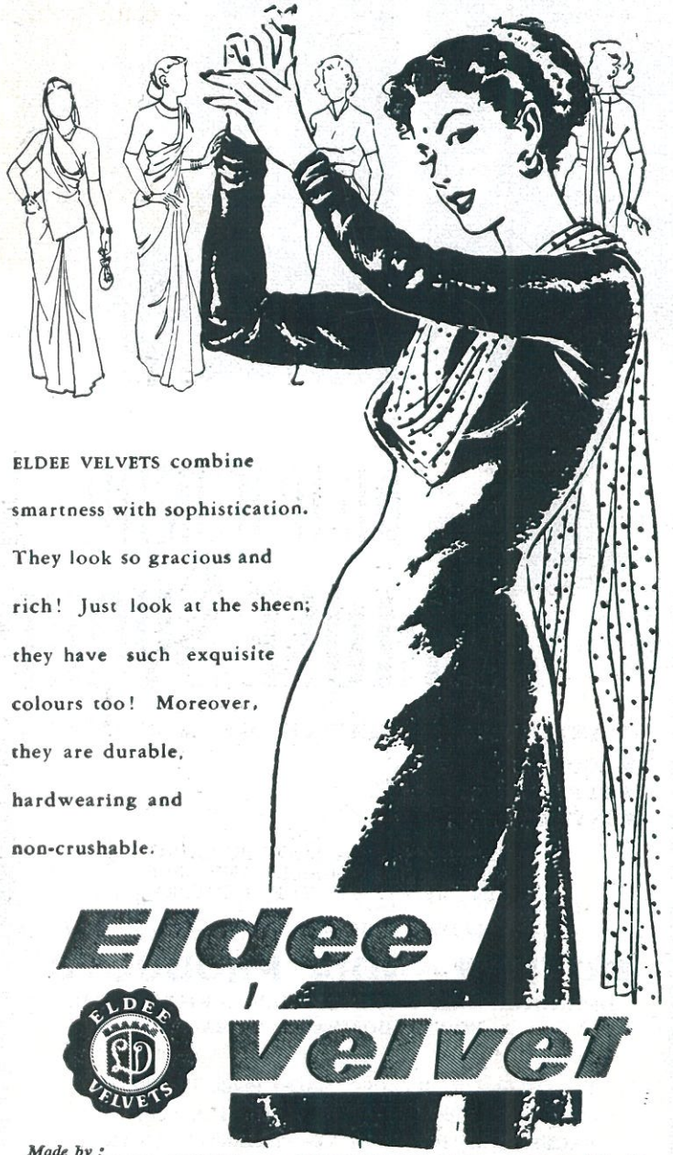
The rights of the Biharis automatically become the wrongs of the Bengalis, both of them being ancient enemies of each other like the Andhras and the Tamilians in the South. In Bengal all authority for calling strikes and creating riots is vested in the Communists, Congressmen there being too lazy and sleepy. So for the same sub-districts which Biharis fought to retain, the Communists called for a general strike on January 21, and made 2,000,000 (2 million) workers idle for a day. Result: Railway trains stopped and smashed, one person killed and several wounded and further sabotage of trains continued.

The shuffling of towns between Karnatak and Maharashtra has not yet been finally done by the Congress gods and yet the crowds at Belgaum gave an exhibition of their temper on January 18 and managed to collect four corpses and a dozen wounded comrades.

The only province that escaped damage was Uttar Pradesh. It was left intact in spite of Pannikar's well reasoned note to split it into two provinces because of Govind Ballabh Pant's position as friend, philosopher and guide of Pandit Nehru.

That is the tragic picture of India before the people today. It is the work of our Congressmen who had set out to create a welfare state nine years ago. The mistakes which these Congressmen make usually provide a cover

LOVELIEST OF THEM ALL



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for the Communists to create anarchy in the country. And that brings bloodshed home. We must therefore stop making stupid mistakes.

But when some people in the Congress suggested that the entire question of reorganizing the states should be shelved for another ten years, Govind Ballabh Pant, whose province and people have not been hurt or bled at all, said, "We have not learnt to run away from our problems even if we face difficulties in solving them. It is against our national prestige to give up the work that we have undertaken."

These would have been brave and inspiring words if Pakistan had declared war against us but they do not contain any practical common sense in facing the blood-stained problem of the reorganization of states. What particular national prestige do we gain in shooting down our own people?

With Govind Ballabh Pant, the fabled strong man of the Congress in this mood of lending prestige to his own province by creating contrastive situations in other provinces and with Maulana Azad in his racial butcher's mood of cutting into pieces what cannot be tolerated intact and with both holding the two ears of our Prince of Denmark, how can we expect our Indian Hamlet to come to any final decision by himself?

Said Nehru at the Congress Session: "I do not care very much if this question is postponed except for the very valid reason that might make people think we are afraid and, therefore, we are postponing the issue." He has thus his eye on the solution but not his finger on it.

Nehru has always been at great pains to prove that he is not afraid of anything. And yet the riots in Andhra compelled him to make Andhra a separate state. Fear has been the sheet anchor of Nehru's entire administration—not one fear but a thousand fears. This is not an occasion to list them but we often wished our beloved Prime Minister had a little more courage and a little more decision.

In the problem of the reorganization of states the moment for decision and courage has at last arrived after a lot of damage and bloodshed.

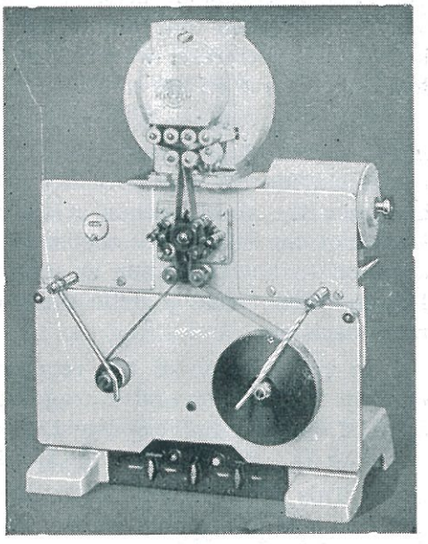
And that decision is: Shelve the damn problem for ever. This decision will need only a little courage to tell our people who are only waiting to hear it.

Will Pandit Nehru muster up that little courage and save a nation from suicide?

"Girnar"
Bombay,
17-2-1956.

Baburao Patel.

In 1956



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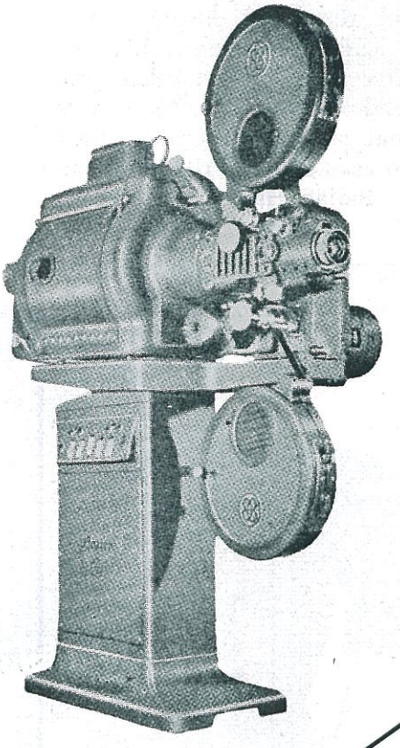

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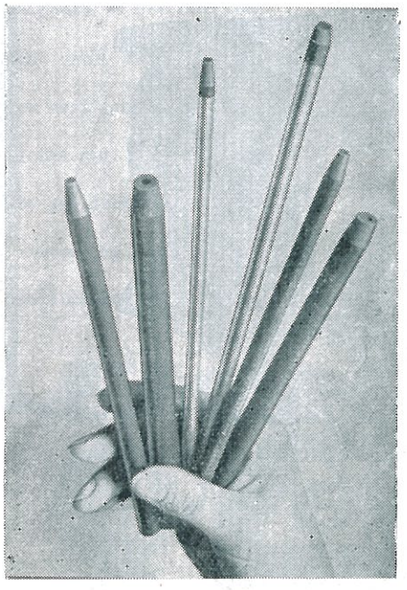

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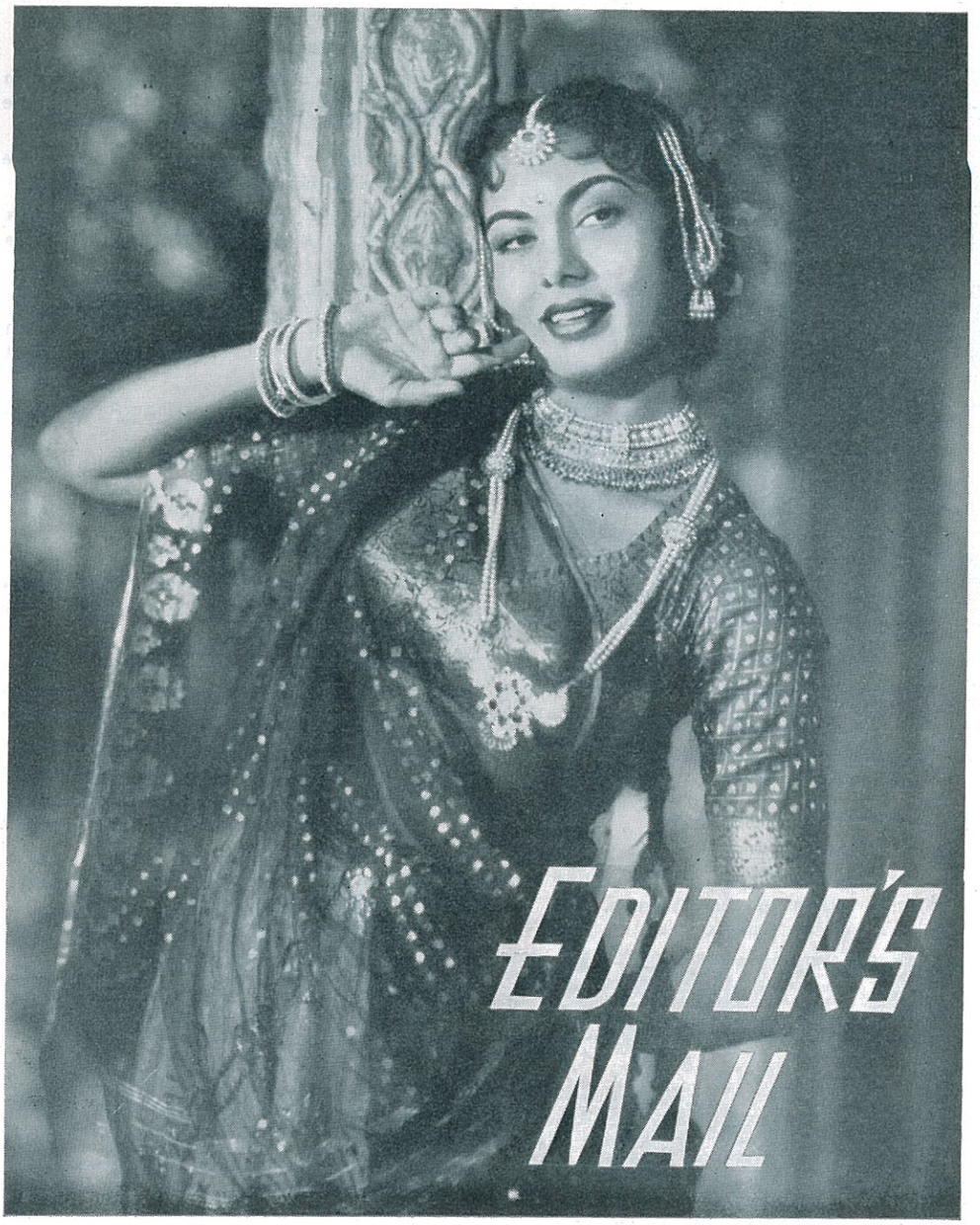


EDITOR'S MAIL

(In this section, the editor himself replies to queries from the readers. As thousands of letters are received every month—some anxious and several frivolous—it is neither possible nor convenient to attend to all. Selected letters are usually treated in an informative and humorous strain and no offence is meant to anyone.)

When the eyes are half cocked the aim is always better and men are in greater danger. Nimmi has a lot of other dangerous armament besides those penetrating eyes and she uses all her equipment with devastating effect in "Jayshri", a social tale produced by Ratnadeep Pictures.

MISS MANIK BHANDARE (Bombay)

Is it safe for us to mix with college boys?

Oh yes! But avoid the "old" fathers of those boys. They are sometimes dangerous.

Kakasaheb Gadgil offered a blank cheque to Morarji Desai?

Without having even an account in the bank! Maharashtrians use even business terms wrongly.

Do you like modern girls keeping their bellies uncovered?

Doesn't it provide a little window shopping without having to buy the goods?

Do Maharashtrians stand by their word?

No. Immediately you disagree with them they throw off all moral obligations and conveniently forget the past.

B. C. MIRCHANDANI (New Delhi)

Do you know that under Congress rule in New Delhi we were supplied with drinking water mixed with 12 million gallons of sludge for one week?

That is pouring the sludge back into the original sewers. Medical science believes in treating unknown allergies with auto-blood.

Don't you think we Sindhis are more patriotic than you Maharashtrians?

Oh yes, you left your soil and ran for your lives. We can still see the foot-prints on your buttocks.

KAMAL K. AGARWAL (Ajmer)

What are Keskar's views on matrimony?

Keskar's father has become a sadhu. That is a great disappointment to the son.

Is Maulana Azad indispensable?

Yes, we must finish all the beef in the country before we stop cow slaughter.

What does Rajkumari eat?

She lives on Nehru's smiles.

MISS PUSHPA (Tripunithura)

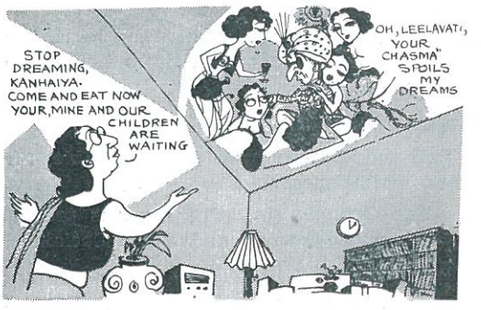
Kamini Kaushal says she has refused a film offer from China?

That is an old joke with which film artistes tickle themselves in India. Kamini is waiting for someone to give her offers in India, leave alone China.

DEVIDAS RAO (Hyderabad)

What is Mrs. Leelavati Munshi's great achievement?

She kept Munshi as an illustration of monogamy. Do you know that Munshi was a Moghul in his previous birth with a harem of hundred girls?


STOP DREAMING, KANHAIYA. COME AND EAT NOW YOUR MINE AND OUR CHILDREN ARE WAITING
OH, LEELAVATI, YOUR CHASMA SPOILS MY DREAMS

What is abortion?

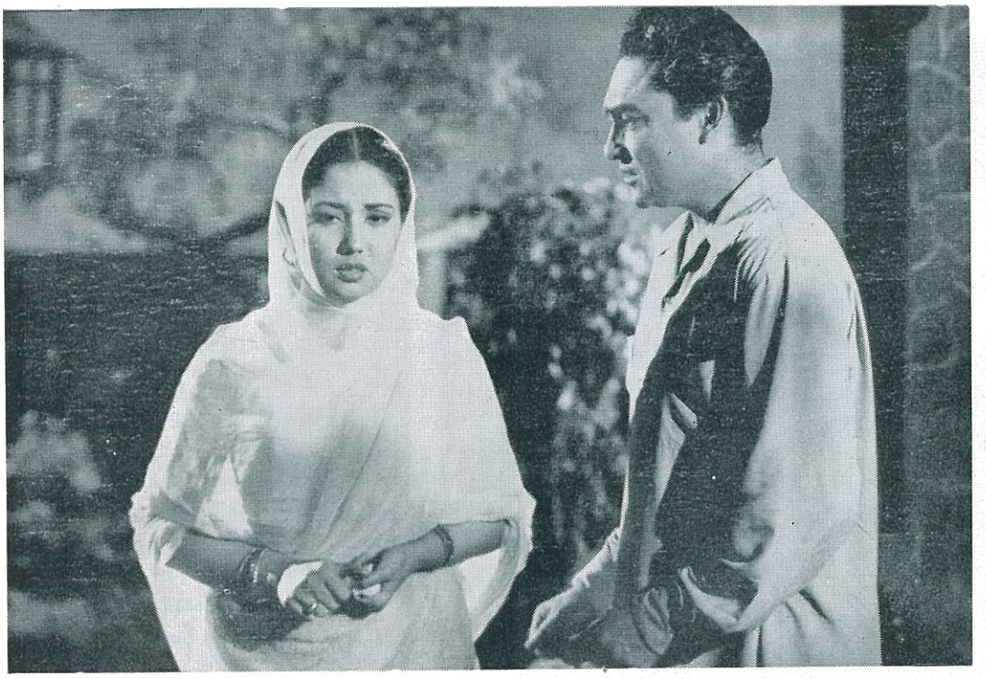
Second accident by design. The first is conception.

B. M. MALHOTRA (New Delhi)

Do you recommend pen friendship as a means of promoting goodwill among nations of the world?

Don't waste money on postage and stationery. Save it for buying your copy of "filmindia". Goodwill between nations is a seasonal greeting between two sessions of spying on each other.

What is our national beverage?



When love becomes a headache, both man and woman get wrinkled faces. It is marvellous how something that hurts inside shows so wonderfully outside. Let us see what hurts Meena Kumari and Ashok Kumar in "Shatranj", a social tale.

The latest is Jumna water which made Delhi yellow.

MISS VASANT MERCHANT (Bombay)

Can you name one film actor with a happily married actress wife?

Karan Dewan. And that is because his charming wife stopped working in films.

Did you ever get the 'seven year itch'?

I take preventive measures every seven days.

What is wrong with Chetan Anand?

Everything will be right when he makes money. Till that time it is human to burn and smoke a bit.

ANANT RAO (Hyderabad)

Tell me frankly who is responsible for these disturbances?

The Communists! The cover is provided by Congressmen and Praja Socialists.

What is outdoor shooting?

That is a producer's opportunity for some indoor work with the heroine. Film actresses usually change their loyalties after a long outdoor trip.

JIWAT C. MOORJANI (Poona)

Vijaylakshmi Pandit has been voted as one of the best dressed women of the world?

And she represents a country where 50 per cent of the people do not have a yard of cloth to cover their bodies.

Chand Usmani has an innocent look?

Not after so many pictures. These Chands look innocent only in their first picture. After that they open schools for teaching innocence.

B. S. CHAWLA (Hyderabad)

Sarees are replacing skirts in U.K.?

And the Parsi papers are selling the rejected skirts to their women.

IT IS A BIT TOO LONG, GOOL. DON'T YOU THINK A SARI WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER?
SUN GANDI-GHELI VAAT KARECHHE, BOMAN. THIS SKIRT WAS WORN BY LADY MOUNT-BATTEN FOR 20 YEARS. IT IS RARE

PURSHOTTAM S. GOEL (Meerut)

Why are women in our country always put under lock and key?

Lock and key? Seeing the crowd of wives round our ministers, I think after locking, the keys are left with the ministers.

What is the charm in marrying a foreign woman?

That is merely choosing upholstery in white skin. The rest of the machinery is monotonously the same.

When do we find bulls fighting with bulls?

It is usually over a cow like Bombay.

Is it very necessary to have public and private prostitutes?

All our planning is divided into two sectors these days—private and public.

Why do saints accept women?

Saints also have nights to pass. Women light up the path where books cannot be read.

Why can't a Hindu woman marry more than once in her life-time?

Who told you that? Snehaprabha Pradhan has already left behind three husbands.

Can a devil profess to be a saint?

Why not? Sainthood is a profession which must improve even the devil—at least partly.

What is the use of marriage for spiritual development?

It is easier to think of God with a wife by your side.

PREM C. SINHA (Arrah)

In response to your appeal I sent Rs. 5|- to Shri D. G. Tendulkar. But the M.O. was refused, the payee not accepting it. Why so, Mr. Patel?

Tendulkar considers himself to be a national project these days and believes in getting State help. Send me those five rupees. I can use them well.

Is nationalization of life insurance quite proper?

A government scandal is better than a private one.

Are you an advocate of drastic measures in politics?

Yes, I believe in shooting down Communists who create riots.

What is being cooked in your kitchen today?

My stomach pain for the day.

Can you narrate a fairy tale to me?

The latest is a Purva Pradesh with Bengal, Bihar and Orissa thrown in.

MRS. V. RAMANATHAN (Calcutta)

Has any politician died of snake bites?

The Congress python has crushed the bones of many Praja Socialists.

LET ME GO. I'LL JOIN BHOODAN
I'LL DISCOVER AREAS OF AGREEMENT
LIKE A LITTLE MORE SQUEEZING?
LEAVE ME, PANDITJI, I SHALL LIE QUIET WITH SUCHETA!

As soon as I saw "Lipton's" advertisement in the Divali number of "filmindia", I switched on to Lipton and broke my long bond with "Brooke Bond". As a housewife I support only those products which are

Oh ! what an unhappy mother she was ! If only she knew why her baby cried so much, was so pale and sickly-looking.

Her sister, however, knew the cause. " Incorrect feeding " she said, " Put him on to 'Glaxo' as soon as possible You'll be surprised how quickly he'll improve ! "

" Glaxo is the nourishing milk-food which millions of mothers rely on for their babies' sturdy growth. There's Vitamin D in 'Glaxo' to build strong bones and teeth, and iron to enrich the blood".

Indeed, in a few weeks, he was a different baby. Happy as never before ! Slept so well ! Was rapidly gaining in weight—thanks to 'Glaxo'.

★ For a free copy of The Glaxo Baby Book send 8 annas in stamps (to cover postage) to ' Glaxo ', Dept. No. G, Worli, Bombay 18.

G 9

Glaxo

THE PUREST MILK-FOOD FOR BABIES

It is always better to cool them when they get too excited at the sight of excitable things. Nimmi is giving Kishore a shower bath in "Bhai Bhai", a social romance produced by AVM.

---

advertised in my favourite magazine. What do you say?

Like a woman you have said everything that was to be said. I'll keep mum for a change.

Why is Dr. Keskar aggressive?

He wants to make his skeleton noticed.

Why do actresses marry boys younger than themselves?

Isn't it better to use new pistons than put over-sized rings on old ones? Actresses usually don't attach sanctity to their bodies. They use them like machines.

My husband, Mr. T. A. Ramanathan, says that he believes in bigamy?

That is like believing in the invisible God. Tell your Ramoo to wait till his next birth.

If Kamini Kaushal divorces Sood?

She will be the loser. Sood is good interest on her investment. He earns two thousands rupees a month.

B. T. PURANIK (Bombay)

Do you know that by your editorial "Midsummer Madness" you have added more enemies to your list?

Why bother about me when a man like Nehru who has selflessly served our people for the last 38 years had his photograph covered with a garland of shoes? People look very small when they live by their hatreds.

R. BHASKARAN (Bangalore)

Difference between an ass and a donkey?

An ass is a donkey who became a minister and still remained a donkey.

Are you an admirer of Vijay Merchant?

Oh, yes! I love his cricket. And he is so good, punctual and correct always that there is no scope for humour in his life. And even after reading "filmindia" regularly for years he doesn't once smile for fear that his face might tear if he stretched it too much.

What is your opinion about Billy Graham?

That American is in a good trade. Selling faith is better than selling bombs.

What does a post-dated cheque indicate?

Faith in astrology.

What is poverty's greatest prize?

Anonymity is the greatest prize of poverty.

Can Marilyn Monroe whistle?

She doesn't have to whistle. She has only to sieve the sound through her.

How did the Nizam become the richest man in India?

He and his ancestors have looted our people since 1713. The old bandit is still living on the blood of our poor people.

Why did you export Miss Henderson?

The demurrage charges were very heavy.

Please let me know something about Nimmi's husband?

Nimmi has not given birth to one yet.

Have street hawkers become millionaires?

They say that some of Ahmedabad's multi-millionaires were street hawkers once. The way they still behave we can believe this.

Is kiss a legal tender in America?

No, but it is used as evidence in divorce and breach of promise cases.

When will you own an aeroplane, Babs?

After death people fly in air all the time and they don't need an aeroplane.

Horses have stud farms. Why shouldn't human beings have such farms too?

We had over 600 of them in India and the foals were called princes and princesses. The farms did not pay.

What is a mother's sin?

Mothers don't sin. Women sin and mothers pay.

Are Muslims happy in secular India?

They are so happy that Hindus have become miserable now.

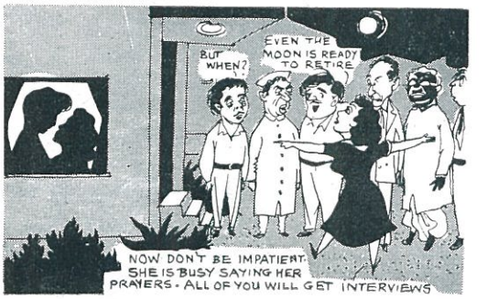
Why did Dalmia leave the Congress?

His membership fee proved too expensive.

S. KUMAR (Pilani)

What is the use of a private secretary to a film heroine?

To arrange the queue of producers.


BUT WHEN?
EVEN THE MOON IS READY TO RETIRE
NOW DON'T BE IMPATIENT. SHE IS BUSY SAYING HER PRAYERS - ALL OF YOU WILL GET INTERVIEWS

What does Prithviraj Kapoor represent in the Rajya Sabha?

College Street and the Kapoor family.

You have called "Blitz" an opposition paper in the November issue of "filmindia". When did you read "Blitz" last?

During the week I wrote that reply "Blitz" was hostile to the Government. Being a weekly paper Russi enjoys the privilege of changing his policy every week.

How can Rajkumari Amrit Kaur improve in health?

Her last chance is Dilip Kumar Amrose Syrup. I am told it is a great bodybuilder. If that fails nothing will succeed.

Do you have a parrot in "Girnar"?

I have my wife. The famous Zanzibar parrot cannot reproduce punctuation. My wife can.

What is the difference between 'phader' and 'father'?

"Phader" is the Gujarati version of the English word.

G. N. PAI (Bombay)

Does Suraiya know how to love?

She does. But whom to love? She doesn't know that.

My friend Appu wants a girl but not the responsibility of a wife? What should he do?

Appu wants another Aarey Milk Colony. Ask him to go to Japan. The government has provided Yoshiwaras there.

Is Dhebar living within Rs. 250/-?

Like Morarji's son Dhebar's wife has a fortune of her own.

What 'tyag' has been done by Mahavir Tyagi?

He sacrificed personal freedom and became a minister.

What is the Communist way of life?

Rioting and killing to gain power and then plotting and killing to keep it.

Has Nehru selected good friends?

A man at the top has no friends. He has only courtiers.

REV. A. J. CHOONOO (Natal)

In South Africa the 2 million Whites fear that if the 10 million Blacks are given the franchise, the Blacks will swamp the Whites out of power and control the destiny of the land?

Doesn't the land belong to the Blacks? When tenants become tyrants, justice becomes a casualty.

MRS. NALINI DARWHEKAR (Nandura)

Is Bombay full of insects?

We have fire-flies that burn cars, buses and shops.

If you lose "Girnar"?

I might live ten years longer.

What do you mean by the fig leaf?

The leaf that grew and became knickers.

If Nargis is given a cradle?

She has no permit to fill it up.

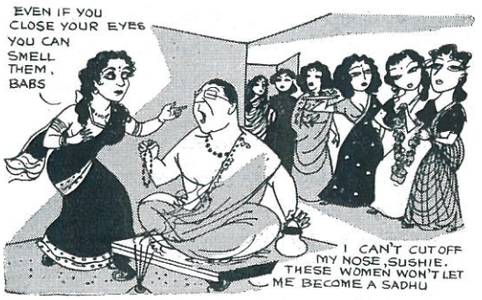
I have married recently. What is your advice?

Don't fill up cradles with more mistakes.

G. V. B. RAJARAO (Madanapalle)

Why don't you become a sadhu?

I am rehearsing these days.



R. L. DADLANI (Singapore)

What is charity?

Don't tax your brain about its definition. You are a Sindhi in Singapore.

MISS USHA PAI (Bombay)

Who are these Aghori sadhus who eat children, Babs?

The Aghoris—or the Aghorpanthis—are a sect of fanatic Shiva worshippers who eat human flesh and filth and use human skulls to eat and drink from. They are Shakta worshippers of Kali, Durga or Chamunda and as such believe in human sacrifice to the goddess. They practise witchcraft and believe that the spirits of the corpses which they eat help them in their sorcery. They move about naked or almost naked covered with the ashes of dead bodies and wear a necklace of 'rudraksha' beads and carry a human skull. They are as ancient as our country but a recent sect found in Banaras is said to have been established by one Kinna Ram towards the end of the 18th century. Their population should not be more than 10,000 and they live mostly in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal. The Aghoris are the filthiest cannibals masquerading as ascetics under the canopy of religion. They must be hunted and put to death as enemies of society, because when a man begins to eat human flesh he becomes a greater danger than the most ferocious brute in the forest.

For what particular achievement in journalism did Mr. Kasturi Srinivasan of "Hindu" get Padma Bhushan this year?

For his architectural activities! He built two Kasturi buildings — one in Bombay and one in Madras—to celebrate our first Five-Year Plan.

J. M. MULIYIL (Kasaragod)

What is the latest dress of Marilyn Monroe?

She is no longer a sky-clad Digambar.

What is Vyjayantimala's secret?

Youth is a season not a secret.

Where is Venus Bannerjee?

I know the planet she is on but the spot she chooses to warm is her own affair.

What happened to Dalmia?

He caught a thorn while picking a flower.

CAN'T I HAVE SOME FRAGRANCE WITHOUT A SNAKE BITE?
MY FRAGRANCE, DALMIA, IS FOR THE ALTAR OF GOD AND NOT FOR THE HEADS OF YOUR SEVEN WIVES

What is a lady secretary to a Congress minister?

Part-time relief from Gandhism.

Why do great leaders embrace children?

In the hope of the mothers getting interested in them. Politicians who are often hated by their own wives need relief.

What is most striking in Marilyn Monroe?

She has bumps that bump you off.

What made June Haver to come out of the nunnery?

Men were called "fathers" there.

In this part of the country I see many Hindu girls being converted by Muslims?

I am sorry, John, that Christians are not getting their share of the Hindu girls. Are your missionaries sleeping?

Who is your Russian friend?

K. Ahmed Abbas.

Who invented hell?

The priest, the man who wanted to exploit fear on earth and make an easy living.

What does an Anglo-Indian girl suffer from?

Chronic financial consumption.

What is the future of Geeta Bali?

She has just given "birth" to a husband. Let us wish her well.

Who is Raj Kapoor's guru?

His son Dabboo. The Kapoors learn tricks from their sons. In the Kapoor family the son is father of the father.

When men play gods they look like sissies. But then who knows what gods looked like in those days when they raided human dwellings for women? Meet Shahu Modak in "Hari Har Bhakti", a mythological tale produced by Raghuvir Chitra Niketan.

Taj Mahal was voted to be the world's most wonderful thing by the Americans?

But they didn't give us an offer. For 4000 crores of rupees we can sell the marble and complete the second Five-Year Plan.

What happened when you met Zippy?

He hid in Mohana's cushions.

Do D.C.M. fabrics guarantee happy homes?

They guarantee pleasant and colourful atmosphere. For a happy home you need a good wife. D.C.M. doesn't supply that.

Taste of lipstick, sir?

To find that out you have to do deep-diving into the heart.

What is Sumitra's secret?

With two husbands in heaven, a woman has no secret on earth.

What is the favourite hobby of Pandit Nehru ?

He is a speculator. He speculates on the future of India.

B. M. MALHOTRA (New Delhi)

Has Munshi ever been practical ?

Munshi is all practical. All his cultural and spiritual talk takes you for an airing but drops you ultimately into a practical pot. Munshi believes in results, not rhetoric.

K. CHAUDHARY (Poona)

S. K. Patil has lost interest in Bombay ?

He must have transferred his investments to Ahmedabad.

The Poona Brahmins claim that they are the most intelligent people in India ?

Who disputes that ? But intelligence lies in persuading fools to agree with you.

P. PURNACHANDRA RAO (Gunadala)

Dowry taking is a social evil, I believe. Do you support dowry taking ?

I do if the other party has money to spare. It is less painful than estate duty.

"You are likely to live longer if you are successful." Is it true ?

That was twenty years ago. It doesn't work out that way in the present socialistic pattern of society.

B. MISRA (Cuttack)

If history repeats itself and crime pays in India once again what would happen to this country?

We shall have to call back the British to manage the kingdoms within our kingdom.

R. RADHAKRISHNAN (Madras)

Sardar Pannikar says that "simple living and high thinking" is worship of poverty?

Ghanshyamdas Birla lives a simple life and indulges in high thinking without lying in the lap of poverty. Pannikar is a clown. Don't take him seriously.

Is Lohia sincere?

Those who have no stake are always sincere.

CHIMANLAL C. DHRUVA (Rajkot)

Do you know Dhebar is called 'Saint Dhebarbhai' of Saurashtra?

And I thought Prohibition was a great success at least in Saurashtra. Drunken people will say anything.

SAT P. AUL (Nabha)

They say that this year is not favourable for Morarji Desai?

Don't bother about Morarji. Look after yourself. Nehru is there to worry about Morarji.

MRS. PRAKASH (New Delhi)

What sort of a Congressman is Shri C. D. Deshmukh?

He is an appendix — painful when inflamed.

NOT THERE. T IS IN HERE — IN THE BRAIN BOX
AH, THAT IS DESHMUKH AND HIS UMPTEENTH RESIGNATION. THAT IS A SURGICAL CASE, PANDITJI. TRY ONE OF TATA'S SURGEONS. MATTHAI WILL DO

You seem to be prejudiced against Maharashtrians?

Mine is self-criticism. I am one of them.

Nargis seems to be tired! Isn't she?

No. She has new interest in life these days.

HARIRAM JUGAT (Bombay)

Do you think philosophers like Radhakrishnan can unite the whole of humanity?

Radhakrishnan is not a philosopher. He is merely an export and import merchant of philosophy. He doesn't manufacture the goods he sells.

Pandit Nehru says Urdu is the daughter of Sanskrit?

Out of an illegitimate flirtation with Persian.

MISS K. SURYANARAYAN (Nagpur)

Are you proud of your bank balance?

Yes, I don't care if the bank goes into liquidation.

K. H. NACHNANI (Poona)

Insurance is nationalized?

Beggars cannot be choosers.

I talk too much?

No Sindhi has ever a chance of becoming a Nehru.

M. SIDDIQI (Lucknow)

Have you ever been madly in love?

I am always madly in love—be it for a moment or a month. Men whose emotions are sincere cannot be otherwise.

Some say you are a communalist?

Why some? Millions of Muslims say that, including Kardar. People like to hide their own crimes by abusing others.

A. RAMDAS (Nellore)

Sivananda advises us not to see cinemas?

Because at Rishikesh there are no cinemas.

J. SARWAL (Patiala)

Mrs. Vijaylakshmi Pandit, one of the best dressed women of 1955?

Isn't that enough? Do you expect any-

thing more? India can claim one great mannequin at least.

M. G. SOMAN (Amravati)

Are Bombay jewellers good at their business?

They competed with the Muslims to give a grand reception to King Saud of Saudi Arabia. Of course the King had to pay all the bills afterwards.

14 LAKHS! FOR WHAT, NANUBHAI?
IT'S AMERICAN MONEY, YOUR MAJESTY. IT DOESN'T BUY MUCH IN INDIA
FOR CHURCHGATE STATION DECORATION, YOUR MAJESTY. ONLY FOR THE MATERIAL USED. NO SERVICE CHARGE
BILL

What is Guruji Golwalkar's future plan?

Golwalkar is waiting for a great death before he gives birth to a small baby.

What is Ceylon's attitude towards India?

Ceylon has not yet planned to annex India. So far it tolerates us. Thank God.

In your opinion who is the most beautiful film actress in India?

At the moment, Nutan. After a year refer to her weighing machine.

Abraham Lincoln said, "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

And how right Abe Lincoln was. Power took all character out of our Congressmen.

Suchitra Sen came too late?

Yes, ten years too late.

Define a tenant?

A tenant these days is the paramour of the landlord's mother.

What is your honest opinion about Atre?

Atre never gave Maharashtra a chance to be proud of him. And yet he had all the raw material but lacked the character which makes men great.

A. SUNDARA RAO (Hyderabad)

After reading your editorial of January 1956, my Communist friend burst out saying that you must have been paid dollars for it?

There is not enough gold in the American dollar to buy me.

S. T. RAJAN (Madras)

Being a Hindu how dare you say that your ideal of a pin-up girl is Marilyn Monroe?

I am not a Naga Sadhu. I like something pinned-up.

A. J. MIRZA (Bombay)

Why are the busts of ancient goddesses so terrific?

The gods of those days were men — not Congressmen. They believed in substantial holdings and not in socialistic patterns of society.

M. S. LULLA (Bombay)

Why are lights switched off in fashionable dance halls at midnight on the New Year's eve?

To give the women a dark moment to sin with other men. That is how western people begin all their new years — with adultery.

MRS. VAGAL CHHAYA (Bombay)

What constitutes pornography?

Daylight exposure of darkroom developments.

H. M. KASKAR (Cape Town)

Does Nehru ever take your editorials seriously?

Yes, he thinks they are menacing but necessary.

What do you think was the most spectacular event of 1955?

Dainty & Delicate
The charm and personality of the well-groomed lady commands respect. Her delicate daintiness is a delight. And her lovely lustrous hair, completes her personal grace. Is it any wonder that lovely ladies conscious of hair-beauty invariably choose COCOLA for complete hair-care ?
JEWEL OF INDIA
COCOLA
COCOLA
Grows & Guards the Hair
THE MOST POPULAR HAIR OIL IN INDIA
JEWEL OF INDIA PERFUME CO. CALCUTTA-34.

Selling tonics to tone up the jaded parts of the human anatomy is a favourite business in India's trains and fairs. That bottle which Yakub is presenting contains faith rolled in clay pills but then our film industry also presents faith and no art. Meet Yakub in "Zindagi Ke Mele", a romantic tale directed by K. B. Lall.

We had the Red rogues for dinner — a spectacular crime.

Does a calendar ever speak?

The Monroe calendar preached a new religion.

C. RAMESH (Bombay)

Who is Dr. Naravane?

That is the Shivaji Park town-crier.

SAMYUKTA MAHA-RASHTRA
APPASAHEB, I AM ANNOUNCING THE AFTER-DINNER MEETING
KAI-RE NARAVANE, WHY ARE YOU DISTURBING MY AFTERNOON NAP?

What is classical about Dr. Keskar?

His stupidity which makes everything he does unpopular.

Where will Jayaprakash Narayan end?

After a good village meal, he will get a gas attack and will fly off to meet Gandhiji. Bhoodan is a wrong business for Jayaprakash.

Acharya Atre calls you a vulture?

He is not good at spotting birds.

Who is more chaste: Nimmi or Suraiya?

Both deserve statues for chastity. That is a project for the third Five-Year Plan.

Why don't you take some rest?

And who is going to pay for my share of our Five-Year Plan? I don't want Nehru to point his finger at me.

How to count the unemployed?

If you count yourself as one you have counted a million already.

They say that Dr. Keskar is very wild with you?

Shall I run away to Pakistan for safety?

If Maharashtrians lose Bombay city?

Maharashtrians don't worry about small losses. The Peshwas lost an empire once.

G. R. CHANDRAN (Madras)

Shammi Kapoor has got married. But what for?

People often buy the houses in which they live as tenants.

I am striving hard to make my mark in life tossed between a shocking past and an intriguing future. Can I hope to hit the bull's-eye, Babs?

Keep shooting, son. Aiming for the eye you might get the whole damn bull one day. You can never say about a man's luck. Nehru began as a shivering barrister and ended as a threatening dictator.

PREM C. SINHA (Ajmer)

Of what can we be really proud in our country?

At the moment our Prime Minister is the only doll we can dance with.

HARIRAM JUGAT (Bombay)

When does bread require butter?

When the teeth wear gold caps.

Why are the press and the platform all of a sudden mum about Acharya Bhave and his Bhoodan?

The press belongs to the Congress and the Congress is not very anxious to create another Mahatma and face another problem.

If a committee has been appointed to enquire into the death of Netaji, why not one to enquire into the death of Dr. Mookerji?

Enquiry committees are appointed only when the Government is sure of finding nothing.

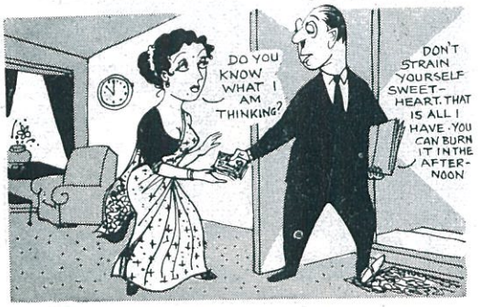
Why has Veer Savarkar not been awarded the Bharat Ratna?

You can't expect Congressmen to rise above their inches and honour an old patriot.

C. RAMESH (Bombay)

If you could read ladies' minds?

Ladies have no minds, they have only itching palms. To read them you have to empty your purse.



VIRENDRA S. MODY (Bombay)

I pity Nargis. Don't you?

I don't. You pity those who had something to lose.

V. SRINIVASAN (Bombay)

I dreamt one night that I was at "Girnar" and I saw Vyjayantimala there. How come?

You got the girl wrong. Take another glass of illicit liquor and try to get a retake of your dream.

Can you imagine Russi Karanjia's feelings after reading your editorial "Unholy Wedlock"?

Russi will feel grateful to me. The Communists will need Russi to counteract the effect of my article. And when people need Russi they don't find him easily.

Babs, you have got a beautiful wife.

I plead guilty.

MRS. K. SYAMALA (Waltair)

What hidden talent has Nehru discovered in Dhebar?

Dhebar can talk nonsense without bringing others under suspicion.

Does Indira Gandhi wear high-heeled shoes?

All that I have seen of her so far is a high-heeled chin.

A Western gentleman says, "Nehru combines the diplomacy of an Englishman, the oratorical and rhetorical gifts of an ancient Roman, the firmness and practical outlook of Caesar, the insight and searching vision of Gandhiji, the quick grasp and brilliance of younger Pitt, the debating talents of Lloyd George, the wide study and the parliamentary tone of Gladstone, the encyclopaedic memory of Disraeli, the peace loving nature of Roosevelt, the thorough prepara-

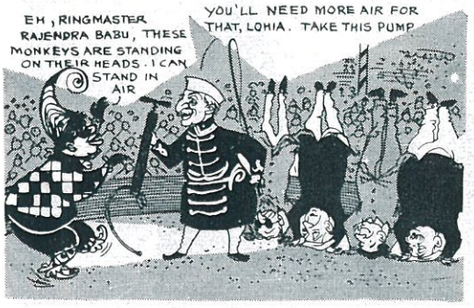
tion and mastery of facts of Churchill, the shrewdness and industry of Mao and the extraordinary drive and energy of Napoleon"?

What a Frankenstein! Now we know where our misfortunes begin. By the way who was the kindly Western gentleman who analysed this monster for us? He deserves a Padma Vibhushan.

MANOHAR M. (Simla)

Why are they putting Dr. Lohia so much in news?

Clowns are allowed to annoy the main artistes to make the circus interesting.


EH, RINGMASTER RAJENDRA BABU, THESE MONKEYS ARE STANDING ON THEIR HEADS. I CAN STAND IN AIR
YOU'LL NEED MORE AIR FOR THAT, LOHIA. TAKE THIS PUMP

Why are most of the advertisements accompanied by the photos of women?

The myth that women are discriminating buyers dies hard.

C. V. VASUDEV (Bombay)

Are there locusts in Delhi?

No. We have officers' wives there. They eat everything that grows in Delhi, including young men.

If Amrit Kaur embraces you?

I won't die. I will dissolve.

How does a V.I.P. introduce himself?

You can smell a V.I.P. He has the stink of a skunk.

Karan Dewan looks aged now?

Do you think that the father of five children can look like a schoolboy?

Did you ever wink at Mohana?

I did but she received it on the eyelid and flicked it off. Mohana is an old expert at this game.

MANSUKH G. BHAGAT (Bombay)

Can Maharashtrians face plain speaking?

Maharashtrians don't like truth. They turn round and abuse.

What is the reason of Bombay's cold reception to the Russian leaders?

Morarji! He is a bad flirt.

How does Morarji warm himself up?

He goes for hot tea to Gupta Mahal.

B SANTOSH (Kuala Lumpur)

I understand that Pandit Nehru is sending Indian troops to Malaya very soon. Is it true?

We don't have troops to export. The few "jawans" we have are all pickled in Kashmir.

R. R. SHARMA (Dehra Dun)

What is the gospel of a Hollywood virgin?

Lovers are cheaper by the dozen.

H. SILAKARI (Jabalpur)

Khrushchev said the Russian revolution wasn't a bloody one!

The Czar died of constipation, I suppose.

S. P. DHASMANA (Pasighat)

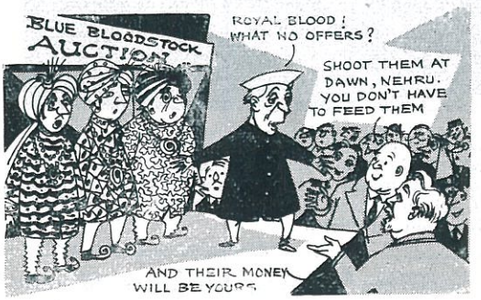
Have you got a tail?

No, I have got a wife who goes with me everywhere.

M. G. SOMAN (Amravati)

Can blue blood be auctioned?

There are no buyers these days. The red blood is popular now.


BLUE BLOODSTOCK AUCTION
ROYAL BLOOD! WHAT NO OFFERS?
SHOOT THEM AT DAWN, NEHRU. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEED THEM
AND THEIR MONEY WILL BE YOURS

B. BHAWANKHEL (Bikaner)

Your answer to a question of Mr. P. C. Naik reads, "I was born in a village without a watch ....." (December 1952 issue) and then in June 1953 issue Mr. Canteenwala writes, "On Monday 4th April 1904 at 5-17 p.m. (I.S.T.) Babu first glimpsed the light....." What's this double talk?

Like all astrologers Canteenwala is doing guess work. In the April 1954 issue he says I was born at 5-45 p.m. The only thing I can definitely say is that I was born.

KRISHNA A. PATNA (Madras)

Will marriages between North Indians and South Indians solve the Hindi problem?

No. One of our top directors, Amiya Chakravarty, married a fine and talented South Indian Brahmin girl. She learned Bengali but that round-toned Bengali did not learn a word of Tamil. And both speak bad Hindi. In fact, except Bengali no other language is decently spoken in this idli-rossogolla mix-up.

Even old copies of 'filmindia" are expensive?

Age adds new value to wisdom.

Why are Dravidians fond of Brahmin girls?

They want to introduce readymade culture in their homes.

This man knows the snakes. When he stops playing Shiva in motion pictures, he can still become a snake charmer and entertain Americans. Meet Trilok Kapoor in "Hari Har Bhakti", a mythological fantasy.

MRS. SUHASINI PANDIT (Hubli)

May I know your age please?

52 next month. A man is most dangerous at this age.

M. ANNAMALAI (Bombay)

How do you like Abbas' articles?

Abbas writes propaganda handbills these days.

RAM L. NAKRA (Jullundur)

She is young but tall and ugly?

To hell with her! Life is short, spend it beautifully.

J. U. NATHAN (Madras)

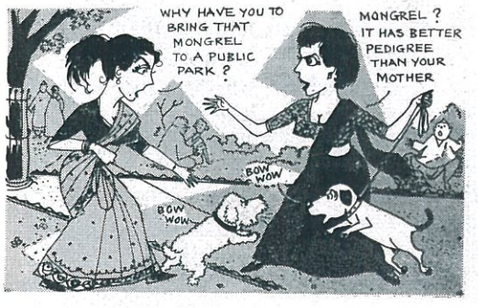
They reproduce your answers in local languages. Is it done with your permission?

Wit has no copyright.

T. A. RAMANATHAN (Calcutta)

Why wasn't Vinobha Bhave introduced to the Soviet leaders?

Competitors don't believe in co-existence.



When men dressed in those costumes, love was a chivalrous game and women were coveted prizes. As the world changed, the dress changed and with the dress disappeared those chivalrous male hearts who balanced the tears of a woman on the points of their swords. Nimmi and Pradeep Kumar give us a glimpse of this old-time love in "Jayshri", a thrilling tale produced by Ratnadeep Pictures.

They say that you attack Communism only because you are afraid of losing your wealth?

I have no wealth to lose but I have a pen which loves freedom.

Debaki Bose is making too much noise here. Why?

Probably getting ready for the Great Silence.

Did you read Kamini Kaushal's "China Diary"?

I know Kamini Kaushal's Ramayan. Her China Diary is only a page of it.

Why are you so generous towards Bengal's film industry?

Isn't Bengal a part of India?

Is Papa Attaullah Khan a Communist?

Not yet. Madhubala is still earning. Communism creeps only into an empty purse.

HRIDAY N. PANDEY (Allahabad)

Some of my Pakistani friends enquired anxiously from me whether you were one of the victims of Delhi's jaundice? They promised to give 'khairat' i. e. charity in case you die of it?

Ask them to save the 'khairat'. They will themselves need it after Nehru.

How to bring peace in the Naga Hills?

By removing the Christian missionaries and educating the tribes to wear the Gandhi cap.

ASHOK CHOPRA (Amritsar)

Isn't Pandit Nehru one in a million?

Where are the 359 other Nehrus?

P. V. R. SYAMALA RAO (Bhojudih)

Pakistanis say that only a Muslim can become the President of the Republic of Pakistan. Any comment?

Honest folks! They don't hide their intentions. We keep the door open for all but admit only those whom we want. Why couldn't we have Dr. Ambedkar as our first president?

Have you seen Films Division's documentary "Bharat Darshan"?

It is quite good as a documentary but it will make Communism more popular in India.

Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, Union Planning Minister, has requisitioned the services of sadhus for the 2nd Five-Year Plan. A novel idea, I suppose?

Not at all! The sadhus in India have successsfully fought Moghul emperors and their fanaticism for converting Hindus and saved Hinduism. The Kanphata Jogis of the Gorakhnath group, Tulsidas, Ramdas, Prannatha, Shankaracharya and many other great ascetics of India fought against the onslaught of Islam and saved this cradle of Hinduism from being turned into a grave of an ancient religion. Our sadhus are a race of militant people with the exception of a few Aghoris and some orthodox Kapaliks. If Nanda knows how to handle these people, he will get a big army of great selfless workers.

A. L. SETHI (Khargpur)

Can a priest be an atheist?

Most priests are atheists seeing that in temples and churches God is weighed and sold. Those who believe in God don't auction Him thus.

Dr. B. V. Keskar said, "Film is the cause of all evils?"

He is right. Had it not been for films Vasan would not have tolerated Keskar even for a minute.

JIWAT C. MOORJANI (Poona)

Do Russians play cricket?

The Communists don't know this gentleman's game.

W. Z. Ahmed at "Girnar"?

One cannot avoid a misfortune.

What is common between Karanjia and Abbas?

They shared in Kashmir when Sheikh Abdullah was not in jail. Now they share China and Russia.

How about sending Lilavati Munshi to U.N.O.?

No! We have still enough Nehrus left. Besides, K. M. Munshi cannot be left loose in India.

How will you describe the career of Sippy as a film producer?

Sippy beat Zippy in monkey tricks.

The Pakistan Constitution contains just twenty-four articles?

That is too much tax on the brain. All that Pakistanis need is a two-article constitution: Islam vs Kafirs.

Begum Para as Morarji's sister! How come?

Morarji is an enterprising man. Collecting sisters is one of his hobbies.

Does Sushila Rani still adore Nehru?

Women don't change their altars easily.

Is Sucheta Kripalani a good housewife?

Must be, with a scorpion in the house all the time.

What is this place called Sachivalaya in Bombay?

That is Morarji's palace of power.

When does Maganlal Dresswala blush?

When he meets Mohana. He cannot suggest improvements. The guy gets licked.

Can Begum Para change sex?

Are you asking her to fast unto death?

C. RAMESH (Bombay)

When does S. K. Patil cough?

When he finds Nehru busy with our welfare state.

P. HARIHARAN (Palghat)

Your answers are rather anti-Congress. Why?

Anything sensible and intelligent automatically becomes anti-Congress these days.

MRS. NALINI DARWHEKAR (Nandura)

It is said that bald men are very fortunate. Is Dr. Keskar fortunate?

Keskar is a lucky dog. He uses only his tail to please Nehru.

S. T. ARASAN (Madras)

If you are not in a position to maintain "Girnar", why the hell did you build it at all?

I have been trying to answer that question by finding another damn fool to buy "Girnar".

S. KUMAR (Pilani)

Do ghosts also take birth and die?

Yes, the death of a physical body gives birth to an astral body which in turn dissolves into a mental body. Ghosts are found only at the astral stage.

K. CHAUDHARY (Poona)

How to cleanse Poona?

You can't wash dirty minds.

Where does K. A. Abbas keep his roubles?

In Russia. After Nehru he is settling down in Uzbekistan.

What do you think of the Maharashtrians who put a shoe garland around the photo of the father of our nation and rejoiced and revelled publicly in it?

Ask the Atres, the Deos, the Hirays and the Gadgils who call themselves guardians of Maharashtrian culture.

Why is our Government late in carrying out your suggestions?

It likes the people to forget that I made the suggestions. Our Government is very fond of claiming originality.

Imagine David writing on hair raising experiences?

He is not bald all over.

K. M. RAO (Khargpur)

I owned a Cadillac in my dream?

Lucky devil! You got the thrill without having to pay the taxes and the petrol and repair bills.

Have prostitutes rivals?

Prostitutes thrive on rivalry. The rival is the housewife.

When Indira Gandhi hums a song?

Matthai, Nehru's secretary, starts dancing. That fellow fancies himself to be a Kathakali dancer. He sees a tale in every hum of Indira. Poor Matthai, he suffers from too much imagination.

I have heard that Nehru is a lady-killer?

I have seen the corpses he left behind. Sheikh Abdullah could not revive one of them.

If Nehru gets toothache?

Women in New Delhi abort. They cannot bear the pain.

B. N. MISRA (Banaras)

Why do Muslim women stick to purdah?

They are afraid of Muslim men.

P. VISHWANATHA RAO (New Delhi)

I thought you had a soft corner for Communism, but you have come down on it with a heavy hand in your editorial last month?

People always misunderstand me. The Americans think I am pro-Communist. The Communists think I get dollars for writing against them. What both of them, however, don't think is that I might be just pro-Indian.

What do you think of Baburao Patel's political editorial articles?

They create trouble for both the critic and the criticized.

MISS MANIK BHANDARE (Bombay)

I have not heard a single Congressman talking about the late Sardar Patel?

That is good. Sardar Patel at least gets some rest. Gandhiji does not.

Name Dr. Keskar's one quality?

He is consistently colourless.

K. C. P. PURNACHANDRA RAO (Guntur)

Who is the biggest gambler in Bombay?

Nehru. He is staking a lot on the second Five-Year Plan while using the same old tools.

How can a Congress minister prove his purity?

A temple priest is never called upon to prove his faith.

V. V. MEHER (Bombay)

India boasts about her army being the best in the world?

It is also the rarest, being perfectly trained in non-violence. They say that in another ten years our soldiers will be the best sadhus in the country.

C. P. DHERVE (Bombay)

What is wrong with our college boys these days?

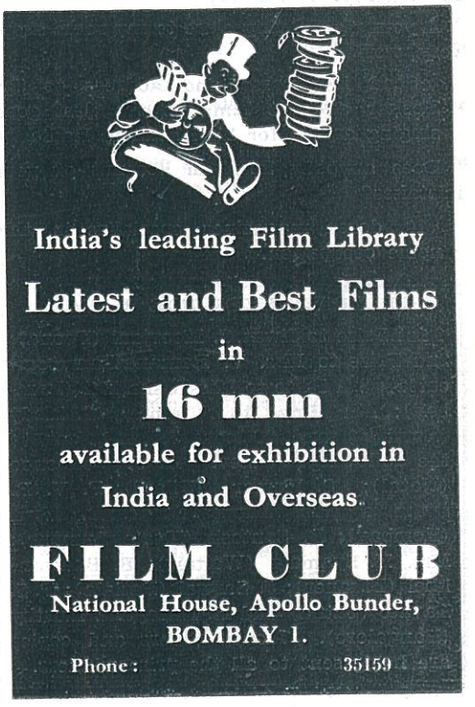
Their plugs don't spark.

MRS. TULSI SAMEER (Colombo)

Why are not wars for love waged any more?

The prizes are poor.

What impressed Marie Seton most while in Bombay?



The old ones often shed a tear in sympathy with the young ones, for in old tears there is experience that can light the path of those that come later. Nimmi and Lalita Pawar weep together in "Jayshri", a romantic story produced by Ratnadeep Pictures.

Sushila's melodious music. Marie went singing about it right up to New Delhi.

ASHOK KUMAR BOSE (Lucknow)

Nehru, our beloved Prime Minister, says fools read newspapers?

Yes, to read what other fools have said.

P. S. LAVATE (Satna)

A young girl living close to my room sings very well?

Send her name and address to Dr. Keskar and let him get the first good singing artiste for his All India Radio.

Does anybody keep an account of your mistakes?

A dozen magazines specialize in this noble occupation.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR MARCH

1st Prize to Jiwat C. Moorjani (Poona); 2nd Prize to Mrs. V. Ramanathan (Calcutta); 3rd Prize to Miss Usha Pai (Bombay); 4th Prize to Virendra S. Mody (Bombay) and 10 consolation prizes to the following:— Rev. A. J. Choonoo (Natal); S. Kumar (Pilani); P. V. R. Syamala Rao (Bhojudih); T. D. Shah (Bombay); B. Santosh (Kuala Lumpur); Mrs. K. Syamala (Waltair); B. Bhawankhel (Bikaner); J. Sarwal (Patiala); P. S. Lavate (Satna) and R. Narayana Murthy (Bangalore). Money orders and copies are being sent to all the prize winners.

T. D. SHAH (Bombay)

Shrimati Indira Gandhi said that she keeps her feet firmly on the earth while at the same time never fails to keep her eyes glued to the sky. Then where does she proceed?

Poor girl, she is between the devil and the deep sea.

VIR CHAUHAN (Mainpuri)

What is death?

Death is freedom — freedom from a wicked world of devils and desires.

Being unaware of life after death I want to do and achieve such things as would make me immortal on this planet?

Don't bother about immortality. They put shoes round Gandhiji's neck and disowned him as the father of our nation within eight years.

MANOHAR M. (Simla)

Can a small girl have a secret?

Yes, if she lets it grow.

Why does every man think that his wife is the most beautiful of all the women on earth?

Man has to reconcile himself with his misfortune if he is to get any sleep.

What is private enterprise?

That is dividend without liability.

A. L. SETHI (Khargpur)

Why are lakhs of rupees spent now and then on foreign guests?

We have to pay for Nehru's various travels overseas.

P. G. WANJALKAR (Nagpur)

If you are included in the list of V.I.P.'s?

That will be outraging my modesty and doing me violence. If they ever do that I shall seek the protection of the Panchsheela.

P. ANJA REDDY (Secunderabad)

What are a minister's qualifications?

A good jeep scandal is more than enough.

E. S. SOANS (Calcutta)

Why are a few married actresses more immoral than the unmarried ones?

Their husbands insure the third party risk.

Why are S. S. Vasan's films so long?

He has to tie up a big continent.

WILFRED DODWELL (Singapore)

Can you single out an animal without a tail?

The lions of Kashmir have no tails.

Why are the Punjabis generous in lending money?

You seem to have a wrong stock of Punjabis there. Our experience in India is the opposite. Our Punjabis are generous in borrowing.

B. T. PURANIK (Bombay)

Should we boycott the government?

Our own government? No, Puranik, no! We have fought for centuries to get our own government. Now we must nurse it.

Do you beat your wives?

Not now. I have reached an age where they can beat me. But they don't. They forgive me for my faults.

P. P. APTE ((Bijapur)

In my dream I saw Morarji as a wine merchant?

That must be medicated wine and the guy must be selling it by drops.

DEVIDAS RAO (Hyderabad)

"There would be no major deviations from the S.R.C. Report", said Nehru?

Nehru often lies. In another four months the only relic of the S.R.C. Report will be the Padma Vibhushan round Fazl Ali's neck.

And if again I have a daughter for the fifth time?

You will still be one short of Kardar's score.

J. RAI (New Delhi)

Is there God in Russia?

Yes, but He is underground. Even God needs a democracy to flourish.

MRS. RANGANAYAKI (Poona)

I don't know what made you say, "The misery that you see in this world is the heritage which man brings from his previous birth." How could you say this unless you knew what you were in your previous birth?

I know. To know how I know you will have to wait a few years more.

I intend to join films and would be willing to work under a respectable gentleman of a character of your selection. I enclose a photo of mine?

Your photo is returned, Ranganayaki. And stop this nonsense about joining films. If you open the subject again I will motor up to Poona to slap you and your husband. India has reached an ancient age because of happy little homes and not because of big film studios.

K. LAKSHMI (Proddatur)

Is Pannikar the most intelligent man in India?

No. Krishna Menon is the most intelligent one. He managed to creep into the Cabinet.

Nehru says he is a vagabond?

He is telling us something we knew for thirty years.

R. NARAYANA MURTHY (Bangalore)

I want to marry four girls: one for her enchanting beauty, one for her high connections, one for her wealth and one for her education. What is your suggestion?

You can pimp for all the four. Pimping also gives profits. Why tie the millstones round your neck?

Which actress's picture is worth framing?

Durga Khote's. She has a mother's kindly face.

C. RAMESH (Bombay)

What is C. D. Deshmukh's headache?

Shuttling between the private altar and the public altar and pleasing both the deities.

P. GOPAL NAIDU (Bombay)

What kind of stories do our producers accept?

Usually those that fail. And they pay pretty well for them.

TIRTH AIDASANI (Bombay)

You seem to be a broker of wit and humour?

I am not a Sindhi to sell other people's goods. I manufacture my stuff.

Did Shivaji molest ladies?

No. He punished those who molested them.

K. A. KRISHNAN (Madras)

What is the greatest achievement of Baburao Patel?

I have saved Nehru from being turned into one more stone god.

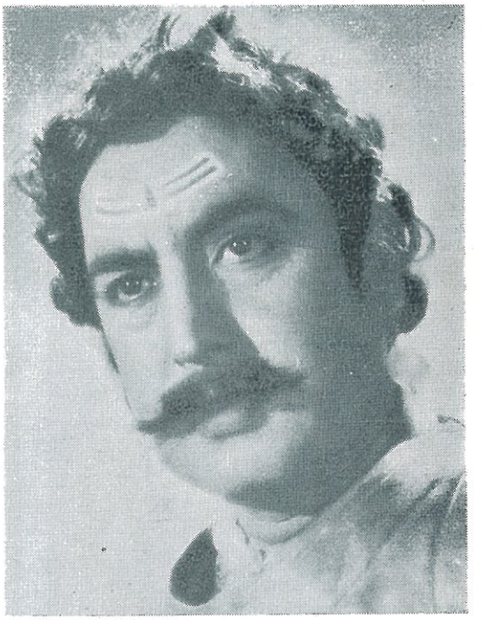
When is a Birla at the feet of a Bhangi?

Birlas are not fools to waste time in mock exhibition. We have enough Dhebars for that.

R. SRINIVASAN (Madras)

I have built castles in the air. Tell me how can I put foundations under them?

Fifty years ago my father-in-law was a railway draughtsman like you. He learnt architecture in his spare hours and soon became a competent architect. During the years that followed he built over 300 houses including his own. At 77 he is still one of the best architects in Bombay.



In ancient days even villains worshipped gods and because gods also had different castes, the devotees often clashed and shed blood. Meet Ullhas in "Hari Har Bhakti", a mythological tale of olden days.

KAMAL AGARWAL (Ajmer)

Is co-existence possible?

Doesn't Nehru live with Krishna Menon?

PREM C. SINHA (Arrah)

A journalist chosen for Republic Day Awards. Does it make you happy?

Kasturi Srinivasan is not a journalist. He is the owner of a mill that employs journalists.

I wish to see Marilyn Monroe in all her glory?

I don't keep a meat shop, son. Inquire further down the street.

Bihar + Bengal = ?

Riots + bloodshed.

Kindly help me, Mr. Patel, I have forgotten the portfolio held by Maulana Azad?

SPARE TIME INCOME FOR WOMEN

Those women, who have ideas and can draw them on paper and in doing so tell their neighbours how to dress and look smart, can send their ideas and sketches to us and get paid for them. We invite sketches and articles on everything that women do, undo or should do, or wear, don't wear or should wear. And we pay well for these. And we can, if necessary, keep the name a family secret. Write today to: The Editor, Filmindia, Fort, Bombay.

He is in the food tasting department of the Government of India.

What is our Prime Minister's favourite hobby?

Picking street dogs and giving them a pedigree. It is a favourite pastime of all aristocratic socialists. It lends a halo to their noble heads.

VIRENDRA S. MODY (Bombay)

What do you think of Ashok Mehta's suggestion regarding 'suvarnadana'?

Very practical. That bearded beggar himself has no gold to give.

Rs. 300/- EVERY MONTH IN 14 PRIZES

The following prizes will be awarded every month for questions which are considered interesting or elicit interesting replies in the "Editor's Mail".

1st Prize: Rs. 100|-; 2nd Prize: Rs. 50|-; 3rd Prize: Rs. 30|-; 4th Prize: Rs. 20|- and 10 Consolation Prizes of one copy of "Grey Dust", each worth Rs. 10|-.

A reader can ask as many questions as he likes but those letters which bear the Priority Coupon will be answered first. A reader gets three coupons free per copy and he has therefore the chance to catch the bus thrice every month. Questions should be neatly written, or typed if possible, with some blank space left between two questions. It is in this blank space that the editor writes his replies. Unless the letters are signed they won't be considered.

In awarding prizes, the editor's decision shall be final and absolutely binding and no correspondence will be entertained about the distribution of the prizes.

The names of the prize-winners will be announced in "filmindia" every month and the prize money will be remitted by money order while the copies of "Grey Dust" will be sent by registered post.

Cut the coupons below and fix them to your questions if you want to be answer. ed quickly.

1 PRIORITY COUPON
CUT HERE MARCH 1956

2 PRIORITY COUPON
CUT HERE MARCH 1956

3 PRIORITY COUPON
CUT HERE MARCH 1956

What has a nose to do with reputation that it is always linked with it?

Anything that projects becomes an intrusion on others. When others object to the intrusion, the projection becomes a point of honour with the man who owns the projection.

YOU SIGNED CO-EXISTENCE PACT, CHOU EN LAI. WHERE IS YOUR RACIAL CHARACTER?
WE ARE FLAT-NOSED PEOPLE, NEHRU. AND IN COMMUNISM THE NOSE DOESN'T GROW

SITAL SAMTANI (Kano)

How to praise you?

Why praise me? I never hurt you.

PRITHI P. SINGH (Amritsar)

Whom should we chiefly congratulate for the box-office success of a picture?

The fools who rush to see it. They are the gods that inspire the producer.

Impossible is the word found only in the dictionary of fools. Do you also say that?

No, I want to avoid a Waterloo.

MANOHAR M. (Simla)

Please tell me the art of suffering quietly?

All suffering is quiet these days. In a crowded and selfish world no one hears even if you scream.

RAJ A. CHHUGANI (Poona)

How popular is Shankerrao Deo in Bombay?

He couldn't stop the riots. Morarji had to give an order to shoot at sight.

Have you ever seen Prithviraj Kapoor weeping?

Oh, many times, and filling buckets after buckets with his precious tears. When the Kapoors weep they look like monuments of compassion.

What is your sincere advice to Maharashtrians?

Beat the Gujaratis in trade and enterprise instead of beating them in streets. Goondaism is not manhood.

MISS ZULEIKHA BHURA (Coimbatore)

Please tell me something about these charming Uzbek artistes who visited our country recently?

Ahmed Abbas took their measurements. Please write to Abbas c|o "Blitz", Bombay 1.

T. T. ADWANI (Bombay)

They say S. K. Patil is a warrior?

Surprised? Yes they are often surprised when they find a worm doing circus stunts. Shyama makes AVM's "Bhai Bhai" an interesting picture besides adding romance to it.

All Malwanis are warriors. They, however, manage to enter military hospitals before they step into the battlefields. That guarantees them rest and food during a whole war.

HE HAS TO SPEND THE BATTLE OF BOMBAY IN BED
SORRY, BABURAO, I SLIPPED ON A BANANA SKIN CAN'T FIGHT NOW
DON'T WORRY, SADOBA. WARRIORS LAST LONG WITH THIS TECHNIQUE

G. A. HAMID (Kurnool)

Sri Prakasa says he loves to hear his own speeches?

Sri Prakasa has always been a bad Congressman. He is honest so often.

What does the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, think of you?

He is very fond of me. He dragged me to court three times in six months.

What made Marilyn Monroe so popular?

She exposed her mother's gifts.

This section is the monopoly of "JUDAS" and he writes what he likes and about things which he likes. The views expressed here are not necessarily ours, but they carry weight because they are written by a man who knows his job.

Women tire the brute first and then feed him. And they rush to do both. Here is Meena Kumari carrying new life in a tray in "Amar Bani", produced by Sirkar Productions.

ARE PRODUCERS SINCERE?

Since freedom (15th August 1947) a lot of noise has been made over our films and film industry. Rotten films have been given awards and seminars have been held with a lot of "hulla-gulla" in which politicians, producers, artistes and sympathisers excelled each other in expressing their love and enthusiasm for Indian films. In the heat of its new found love for our film industry Government even allowed film deputations to go to China, Russia and America and make fools of themselves overseas.

On the domestic front, Producer S. S. Vasan, President of the Film Federation of India, suggested several combinations and permutations between the different warring trade bodies and ultimately surprised the enemy by taking his own Trojan horse right inside the enemy camp and becoming a member of the Film Producers' Guild—a Ku Klux Klan organization of studio-owning producers. With this move this shrewd South Indian producer forged some sort of unity which has given birth to a highly suspicious body pompously named the "Supreme Council Of Producers".

For two long years S. S. Vasan has played the role of a town-crier for the Indian film industry and his national anthem has been one long wail about the Entertainment Tax. Neither Dr. Keskar nor the Prime Minister could stop Vasan from singing this sad song of the Indian film industry. Through sun and rain, during night and day, in and out of season, with or without cause, asked or unasked, with or without grace, Vasan, like a fanatic Catholic missionary bent on converting his victim, has sung his special national anthem so long and so consistently that Dr. Keskar had to report him as a national headache to the Congress Working Committee and request for some cure from this persistent ailment. The Congress Working Committee prescribed cotton plugs for official ears.

After all this screaming and getting together nothing substantial seems to have been achieved for our film industry. With the money which our film folks spent during eight years in going to New Delhi they could have easily financed two good pictures. In 1947 we had at least 50% solvent producers. Today 98% are insolvent after eight years of flirtation with officials and politicians.

What Vasan and his chorus of well-meaning town-criers have not understood is the basic fact that they are asking for alms from a government which needs money very badly for its own plots and projects. Not in another hundred years will an anna in the Entertainment Tax be reduced because the government which is a bigger racket than the film industry has also a better excuse—that of creating food and employment for millions and not merely entertaining them. And as food and employment take a long time to create during which time new mouths create fresh problems, the excuse for more and more taxation can never become stale.

The remedy for the ills of the film industry is therefore not with a government which is itself ailing. These Sir Galahads of the celluloid kingdom who rush to New Delhi so often if they really mean well by the film industry and do really intend to see it well established must first help each other before they rush to sing carols outside Rashtrapati Bhavan. And we shall now frankly state how this can be done.

We have three types of producers in the country: A) Those that have come into the industry for love of art and in pursuit of their individual artistic expression either as artistes, directors or technicians and have be-

come producers in the process e.g. Kishore Sahu, Kidar Sharma, M. Sadiq, Gajanan Jagirdar, K. Amarnath, P. N. Arora, Amiya Chakravarty, Bimal Roy, Vishram Bedekar, Dewan Sharar, Mehboob, A. R. Kardar, B. R. Chopra, Devendra Goel, Shahid Lateef, Ramesh Chandra, The Wadia Brothers, Raj Kapoor, Devaki Bose, Sohrab Modi, K. B. Lall etc.

B) Those who have come in tempted by the huge profits this entertainment industry sometimes makes. To them film production is a trade for tossing money. Here are some famous names: S. S. Vasan, Tolaram Jalan, Meiyappan Chettiar, S.M.S. Naidu, Narayana Iyengar, Ramniklal Mohanlal, B. N. Sircar, Chandulal Shah, etc.

C) Those, mostly Punjabis and U.P. millionaires, who came chasing sex to drown their lives in orgies of wine and women. Let us not name them to avoid bloodshed. Nor are they worth a thought as contributors to an industry.

Through years all the creative and pioneering work has always been done by those in the "A" class. In that group we find artistes and intellectuals who do creative thinking and their thought forms materialize into milestones of progress. They feed and sustain the creative art in the film industry at a tremendous price—the price of commercial failure. At rare intervals some of them score a success but that is only a lightning that makes darkness more visible. Most of the persons mentioned in this group live on the verge of bankruptcy and yet they go into the labour of creation at regular intervals impregnated by borrowed capital and bring out test-tube "babies" which often become the milestones of progress in our film industry. These are the people that need and deserve state help, self-help and all help that can be given if the film industry in India is to survive and compete with the best in the world.

In the "B" class we find some famous and some rich names. There is the great little Vasan, the doyen of them all, who will pay over Rs. 40 lakhs as Entertainment Tax and Rs. 20 lakhs as Income Tax on his "Insaniyat" alone. Then there is Tolaram Jalan, the little Marwari who keeps S. Mukherjee sweating day and night for him producing "Anarkali", "Nagin", "Nastik" and other box-office hits and then talks of buying all small producers at a few annas per pound of their weight. His income tax problem is reported to have run into eight figures already.

Another who runs a picture factory in the South is Meiyappan Chettiar. He weighs motion pictures in gold before he sends them out. S.M.S. Naidu produced a bandit tale in two versions—Tamil and Hindi—and just made enough lakhs to make him lose all interest in motion picture production for over a year. In short, none of those mentioned in this group has any artistic urge to produce pictures. If they use art sometimes, it is merely as a handmaid of profits.

Strangely enough these are the people who are shouting the most for relief from government and while doing so dragging all into the vortex of the protest. And the passionate way in which they shout one feels like stop-

ping and asking: Is all this row over really helping and stabilizing the film industry or for merely increasing the profits of the lucky ones?

Now between Vasan, Jalan, Chettiar, Naidu and Narayana Iyengar over fifty lakhs of rupees will be paid this year by way of income tax alone—money which can be utilized to save our film industry only if these big earners sit down and think a little in a generous strain and decide to help their less fortunate brothers in the industry. If they don't, those fifty lakhs of rupees will have to be paid to the government in any case by way of income tax. But if they invest this money in financing other producers—which will be virtually a risk of the government—they might either make more money or lose some money in the process. If they make more money they have nothing to complain and if they lose some they have still less to complain, for these investments will be from monies which would have normally gone to the income tax department.

With a pool of fifty lakhs of rupees between five producers, as many as ten pictures can be fully financed every six months and some of these producers who also have distribution offices can make additional profits by securing these pictures for distribution. And if the five producers do not wish to cooperate in forming a pool, everyone of these big, rich and successful producer, who is going to pay lakhs this year in income tax alone, can divert his personal tax amount for the purpose of helping at least two of his less fortunate brothers in trade every six months.

The small producers in the "A" group at present pay as much as Rs. 25000|- as interest (15000|- black + 10000|- white) for six months on a lakh of rupees to bloodsuckers who have the impudence to call themselves financiers. That works out at 50% per annum interest on money that is actually paid in small bits with painful embarrassments.

Producers like Kishore Sahu, Kidar Sharma, M. Sadiq, K. Amarnath and others must get finance at normal banking interest and they must get the money at regular intervals to produce their pictures on an economic scale. At the moment they get money in dribbles of five hundred or thousand rupees and at uncertain intervals because the bloodsuckers in their greed to rope in as many producers as possible often overtrade and exhaust their cash resources, thus holding up half a dozen productions simultaneously and piling up overhead costs on their producers.

If the lucky ones in group "B" can finance the unlucky ones in group "A" at the normal interest of 6% per annum not only will they save over a hundred art-conscious devoted producers but also lend great stability to the film industry in the country for which they are asking help and safeguards from a government that is itself running on loans and deficit finance.

And the government will also realize and appreciate the sincerity of all protests of our film folks when they see the lucky producers helping the unlucky ones and thus contributing to the basic stability of the industry.

Let us therefore hope and pray that a beginning will

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One young girl understands another easily only if their man is not common and only if both have their men on the horizon. Here is Kum Kum comforting Nimmi in "Basant Bahar", a musical romance.

soon be made by either Jalan or Vasan, two daring producers, by financing Bimal Roy or Kishore Sahu both of whom sit as colleagues on the Supreme Council of Film Producers.

And while doing so, let these lucky ones remember that their generosity begins and ends with money that does not belong to them in any case but which if diverted goodheartedly will benefit those who deserve to be helped.

And that is a prayer we address to those to whom God has been good and gracious.

AN EXPENSIVE HUMBUG

Very few taxpayers know that the Government of India maintains a department called the Press Information Bureau and spends on it annually over Rs. 25 lakhs. Like the All India Radio and the Films Division, this department is also mismanaged by Keskar Dada of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The main function of the Press Information Bureau is to ensure that the policies and the activities of the Government of India are properly interpreted and that timely intimation of all important matters connected thereto are conveyed to the public through the Press. Additionally the Bureau has to examine and analyse press reaction to government policies and submit a report of such a study to the different ministries of the government. The Press Information Bureau is, in short, an important link between the rulers and the ruled. Or shall we say between the people and their government?

The Bureau has eight sections: (1) Departmental Publicity Section (2) Newspaper and Analysis Section (3) Photo Publicity Section (4) Photo Studio (5) Establishment Section (6) General Section (7) Distribution Section and (8) Receipt and Issue Section. In addition to its headquarters at New Delhi, it has four regional offices at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Jullundur.

The Bureau, which constitutes a vital link between the people and the government because it is intended to supply the day to day news of all government activities, is supposed to work round the clock and be at service to the press at all hours.

The Bombay regional office of the Bureau employs over 45 persons for rendering service to the press in all its eight sections. Not counting the 40 lesser fry, the ten top officers of the Bombay office get the following monthly salaries: H. J. D'Penha—Rs. 1250|-; J. N. Ganju —Rs. 900|-; Abdul Hamid—Rs. 850|-; G. L. Rawal—Rs. 550|-; S. N. Joshi—Rs. 550|-; H. D. Mehta—Rs. 550|-; V. S. Varkhedkar—Rs. 550|-; S. Castellino—Rs. 450|-; M. Subrahmanyam—Rs. 400|- and Kurien—Rs. 400|-. Besides two general office telephones (2-3942 and 2-2880) the top three officers have special residential lines—presumably for urgent contacts.

Recently we wanted some information and we rang up the Press Information Bureau on the following days at the following hours:

Tuesday 24th January 1956	—	11.45 A.M.
Wednesday 25th January 1956	—	12.5 P.M.
Friday 27th January 1956	—	10.45 A.M
Wednesday 1st February 1956	—	10.30 A.M.
Thursday 2nd February 1956	—	10.55 A.M.
Friday 3rd February 1956	—	11.15 A.M.

All the six times the telephone was answered by a peon who invariably said "Saab loke nahin aya, ek kalak ke baad telephone karo" (The sahebs have not come yet, phone after one hour).

On the 6th and 7th of February, our representative, in company with a colleague, called at the office of the Bureau at 10.30 A.M. and 11.20 A.M. respectively. During these visits also all the officers were missing. Even the clerks—if there are any clerks in the 45 employed—were missing. Again the peon answered "Saab loke nahin aya". (The sahebs have not come.)

Now we want answers for the following questions:

(1) What are the business hours of the Press Information Bureau?

(2) What are the precise duties of the great 45 employed in the Bombay office?

(3) Why do we need as many as 45 useless persons in the Bombay regional office, seeing that this office is merely used for distributing hand-outs that come ready-made from New Delhi? Three peons and a couple of clerks would be enough for this job.

(4) What creative work do the principal officers do during the course of the day?

(5) Why don't the half a dozen information officers, who seem to have turned the Bombay office into a railway waiting room for the usual coffee-house riffraffs, contact

different editors and find out their reaction to the policies of the government? In the last four years our editor, whose political editorials feature prominently in the Parliamentary debates, has never had a visit from any of these information officers.

(6) And when the Government is asking the people to save money even in their personal religious ceremonies, why can't the Government set an example by cutting down 75% of the expenses wasted on these stupid Press Information Bureaus which provide merely a sinecure to some lazy, useless and idiotic information officers and serve no other useful purpose? At least Rs. 20 lakhs out of Rs. 25 lakhs spent annually can be easily saved if only Secretary "Dada" Lad makes a sincere, and of course honest, effort to do so.

For the purposes of our record, we propose to check up the office attendances in the Bombay office of the Press Information Bureau at least four times a month in future and submit statistics to Parliament to prove to the tax-payers the luxury in which Government officers live while demanding all sacrifices from the people.

FARCE AND FAVOURITISM

Our democratic Constitution provides for several Public Service Commissions — one in New Delhi for the Central Government and one in each of the States of the Union.

The Public Service Commission—whether of a State or the Central Government—is consulted in all matters relating to methods of recruitment to civil services or for civil posts. It examines the candidates and decides about the suitability of candidates for the posts advertised. It also advises in matters of promotions, transfers and discipline. In short the Public Service Commission is a body that is supposed to guarantee the correct choice of a candidate most suitable for a post without fear or favour. It also guarantees fair and just treatment to those already employed in matters of promotions, transfers and discipline. And as the members of the Public Service Commission are appointed either by the President or by the State Heads directly, the Public Service Commission enjoys the confidence of the public. And people naturally expect it to be above suspicion, in spite of it being wedded to a Congress government.

Let us see how this Public Service Commission works in our Ministry of Information and Broadcasting tyrannized by those two Maharashtrian "Dadas" — Keskar and Lad.

The lucky Luciano in the eight-year old Congress kingdom of India — the man who defied all the damn rules which the old fogies of the Public Service Commission made and bragged about — is, of course, S.A. Iyer, the man who they say carried Subhash Bose's spittoon during the great I.N.A. revolution overseas. After winning the revolution Iyer returned to a newspaper representation in Bombay where Morarji, Bombay's "Maharshi-in-making", stopped him and lifted him straightaway as his Director of Publicity. It was a jump from Rs. 250|- to Rs. 1600|- without jumping over the hurdle of the Public Service Commission.

The next we heard of Iyer was as the Regional Officer of the Central Board of Censors, a post drawing over Rs. 1800|- per month—again without the Public Service Commission having any say in the matter.

Iyer's third big jump, which took him into figures beyond Rs. 2000|-, was when Secretary Lad of the Minis-

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try of Information, an ex-Legal Remembrancer of "Maharshi" Morarji, appointed him as Special Adviser for the publicity of the Five-Year Plan—once again without even winking at the Public Service Commission. Having made sure of the fate of the 1st Five-Year Plan, Iyer has once again returned to his old post of the Regional Officer.

Now it seems we have been blessed with another Iyer. This one is a Gujarati named Dilip Kothari. Dilip is a nice, well-behaved man as most of the Gujaratis are. He is a close and intimate friend of Dr. Keskar, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. He has been that for years. Whenever Dr. Keskar comes to Bombay, the good hearted Dilip makes all the arrangements for "Dada" Keskar's stay. The last time such arrangements were made was in December 1955 when Keskar stayed at Janki Kutir in Juhu and Dilip looked after his creature comforts. But no one can object to a great and honourable friendship. We also believe in friendship being a religion in itself. The only trouble is that no one comes near us to profess this religion.

We do not know the exact educational qualifications of Dilip Kothari. No one knows them. Evidently they have not been so outstanding as to be remembered by anyone. And yet Dilip Kothari draws today Rs. 1900|- per month as a Regional Officer—a salary that can be enjoyed only by a man of most distinctive qualifications. How did Dilip do this trick seeing that from 1950 to 1954 he was reported to be unemployed. We, of course, don't believe this. A Gujarati cannot be unemployed as long as there is something left to sell in the world. Anyway Dilip was far far away from Rs. 1900|- which he gets now.

Dilip's opportunity came in January 1954 when S. A. Iyer, the Regional Officer, was lifted from his chair in Bombay and put into a chair at New Delhi as Adviser for the 5-Year Plan Publicity on Rs. 2000|- a month with plenty of additional allowances.

The vacancy caused by Iyer's promotion threatened a crisis but Dr. Keskar met this national emergency by picking up his friend and host Dilip Kothari and putting him into Iyer's empty chair on Rs. 1900|- a month as a Regional Officer.

After this as the rules of the game demanded the post of the Regional Officer was advertised in October 1954 and along with other applicants Dilip Kothari was presented before the Public Service Commission in February 1955 but the fogies on the Commission there probably did not like his face and sent him back with the remark "Returned With Thanks". The candidate selected by the Public Service Commission never heard from the Government and Dilip Kothari continued to draw Rs. 1900|- every month and enjoy the friendship of Dr. Keskar in addition.

The job of the Regional Officer was again advertised in 1955 and one of the many who applied for it was, of course, Dilip Kothari, the man who was already enjoying the job for two years. Eighteen candidates were called

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In olden days, young men used to go to the homes of dancing girls to learn good manners and to pick up the best points of culture. Those girls were institutions of education. Don't ask us what the dancing girls are now. But you see a pretty one in Kum Kum in "Basant Bahar", a romantic sigh expressed in song and dance.

for interview in January 1956 before a full board of five members of the Public Service Commission with Mr. Lad, the Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as the official complement. Dilip Kothari who was obviously rejected once for this particular job should not have been called again for an interview. But he was and some of the other candidates like Snehaprabha Pradhan and Bhadrakumar Yagnik loudly wondered why this man should haunt the post so badly after being rejected once.

At least three of the eighteen candidates are reported to have passed with high marks in the Public Service Commission's test. And yet the Commission is reported to have recommended Dilip Kothari as the best choice for the post.

Evidently when Dilip Kothari ran, the hurdles were removed and the course was prepared for flat racing seeing that he won the race in a canter in spite of five silly looking judges hanging on the railing and watching the colt running away with the cup. And like a doped race horse Dilip seems to have improved his form beyond recognition between his two appearances before the Public Service Commission.

Will Pandit Nehru, who describes every legitimate demonstration of his political rivals as a "tamasha", tell us what is this "tamasha" which the Public Service Commission and Dr. Keskar together seem to have staged? If this is not favouritism how else can we define favouritism?

And why maintain an expensive body like the Public Service Commission if its recommendations are not to be followed and if it is not to be allowed to work in an atmosphere free of official pressure and influence?

At least those eighteen candidates who went all the way to New Delhi for interviews at their own expense want answers to these questions — if not the millions of unemployed people in India, that is Bharat.

YOU'LL HARDLY BELIEVE —

THAT Congressmen are the best pickpockets in the country was once again proved when Khadiwala, a Congressman, auctioned a girl's frock for Rs. 3510|- and saved Chief Minister Takhatmal Jain from some embarrassment when schoolgirls of Tarana town presented him with a little frock to register their protest at opening a tiny three-room school for the whole town of Tarana.

THAT Takhatmal Jain's Madhya Bharat is such a wonderfully administered state that a 28-year old clerk in the Revenue Department was credited with 28 years of service when preparing staff records. Takhatmal seems to be counting services rendered to him in the previous birth also. The good Hindu!

THAT irritated by the constant limelight in which our "Bhoodan Bhoot" Vinoba walks across the country, our medical micrococus Dr. Sushila Nayar rushed to Kanya Kumari and set out on a "bhoodan" walking tour for the next twenty months. She will, of course, end in New Delhi. With every one walking across the country and asking for land these days, we'll need a lot of more land to keep all these selfless service units busy. Why not borrow some land from our neighbours Burma, Ceylon and Pakistan?

THAT after Chief Minister Morarji Desai's recent visit to Ahmedabad, the barbers there got so angry at seeing Morarji's self-serviced top that they held a conference on the Gandhi death anniversary day and demanded financial help from the Industrial Finance Corporation to establish centres for training people in the art of hairdressing. Evidently the professional barbers were terribly hurt at the mess an amateur barber like Morarji had

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made of his nut. They probably felt that, if not inside at least outside, things can be made to grow in a civilized manner.

THAT the God-denying anti-Brahmin agitator of the South, E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker, is reported to have sent the following telegram to Chief Minister Kamraj Nadar: "Dakshina Pradesh formation a life and death matter for Tamilians. It will be suicide for you and all. It may provoke unprecedented agitation by Tamilians. Pray save us and Tamil Nad." As Nadar does not know English, he sent the telegram to Rajaji for translation into Tamil.

THAT for the umpteenth time Chintu "Durgamukh" did his Maharashtrian "nakhra" by handing in his resignation to Pandit Nehru right on the eve of the Budget Session of Parliament. This time Chintu was protesting over Maharashtra and throwing dust into the eyes of Maharashtrians. As usual Chintu "Durgamukh" quickly withdrew the resignation giving no chance to Pandit Nehru to accept it. Panditji must be pretty quick next time if he wants a new Finance Minister with less "nakhra".

THAT realizing that people are not very enthusiastic about U.N. Dhebar, the Congress President, Pandit Nehru decided to popularize the goods in the following words, "Our new Congress President has brought glory to this office. He has not my defects and he has more qualities than I possess. Sometimes I speak in a harsh way. His voice is not harsh. He works in a calm way. He has once again made radiant the name of the Congress." Sounds like Vasan's advertisement of Zippy, the Hollywood chimpanzee.

If she looks pale and anaemic it is because she is in love. The heart takes all the blood in love and leaves nothing for the face. And when a girl has to play Shirin, a lot of blood has to be transferred to Farhad to keep the romance going. Meet Madhubala in "Shirin Farhad", the good old tale of proverbial love so popular with the people.

THAT the Muslim villagers of Malerkotla in PEPSU are very angry with the local Municipality for banning prostitution and trying to rehabilitate the local prostitutes. Malerkotla being mainly inhabited by Muslims, this social reform will be considered as a cruelty in a secular state like India, that is Bharat. Local Muslims say that it is unconstitutional to discriminate between a housewife and a prostitute in this blatant manner.

THAT the Soviet Comrades are good at throwing dust into the eyes of other people. They didn't invite their Indian Comrades to the 20th Party Congress this year and thus gave the people an impression that Indian Communists were independent operators without any "milk" from Mother Russia.

THAT the friendship between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Education is getting so strained these days that whenever "Indians" of the Ministry of Information meet the "Muslims" of the Ministry of Education they abuse each other in a language which, even for the Punjabi-infested

BY WHAT MATHEMATICAL CALCULATIONS THIS PICTURE-PRODUCT IS ARRIVED AT?

Well, here is the algebraic long Equation of

"Mr. LAMBU"

$$\left\{ (NS - OM) \times (CD + SS + MM^2) \div DD \right\} \times PHW^3$$

= MR. LAMBU

Abbreviations explained :-

NS=New Story
OM=Old Matter
CD=Crisp Dialogue
SS=Sweet Songs
MM=Melodious Music
DD=Deft Direction
PHW=Producer's Hard Work

Produced by

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Men become "sadhus" and often boast of the sublimation of their desires. But in every woman there is a mother and a devotee and she can not only give birth but also sublimate all creation. Catch Nimmi in a spiritual mood in "Basant Bahar", a tender tale of sighing love.

New Delhi, is considered too shocking. Why not put the top ones of both the Ministries into the National Sports Stadium and allow them to tickle one another?

THAT some of the officials of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are reported to be forging a "charge-sheet" against Mohan Bhavnani to justify his dismissal and to throw some dust into Pandit Nehru's eyes. That is delaying his provident fund which is expected to be paid to his widow, probably.

THAT Krishna Menon,—"Blonde Janette's Black Duck" as he is affectionately known in the United Nations and India's new Cabinet cockroach without any cloth to bite, did not know what a jeep was when some journalists interviewed him in Bombay recently. A journalist, however, defined it for him as: a four-wheeled public carrier used for transporting private scandal.

THAT S. K. Patil of all people celebrated Chief Minister Morarji's 60th birthday in the hope of Morarji recommending him to Nehru as the Minister for Bombay when the city is taken over by the Central Government.

THAT film actress Nimmi's weight goes up and down according to the emotional demands of a picture. She says she lost 20 lbs in Mehboob's "Amar". Mehboob evidently feeds them less. Now other stars will rush to Mehboob to knock off some excess weight from their walking bulk. On the other hand Raj Kapoor's board and lodging arrangement, it is said, adds weight to Nargis every time they go outdoors and poor Nargis has to run to doctors to keep her weight steady.

THAT Kamal-e-Meenakumari, India's most silent producer, is reported to have at last begun a "noo" production called "Pakeeza" on his umpteenth age-unknown birthday. The "noo" picture has given Meena Kumari a "noo" sickness which keeps her away from pictures of other producers these days.

THAT block-bust-er Mohana left India in sheer disgust to join her husband in England. Said the eye-serving actress, "I am absolutely fed up with the film industry in this country. One works and works and never gets paid for it." Isn't a girl fortunate in at least having work in a country of chronic unemployment?

THAT ex-film actress Zeb Qureishi is married again. This one is a Yank in Karachi, they say, and it is difficult to state his exact rank in the queue of Zeb's admirers. Anyway Zeb says, "I have now employed someone to work for me and I am just going to lie on my back and see how he does it." Poor girl, seeing the hard times she has had, she does deserve some rest. And a bridegroom from a hard currency area is always welcome addition to any family. Let us hope sister Taji finds her Yank too.

THAT film actor Karan Dewan has now become a full-fledged palmist and surprises many film folks with his uncanny skill in reading their palms. The other day when he told film actress Shyama that within a year she was going to play an important role of a mother, she turned round and asked, "Tell me from what community will the father come?". Now Karan says palmistry is a secular science without caste, creed or community. So is Shyama, a secular institution.

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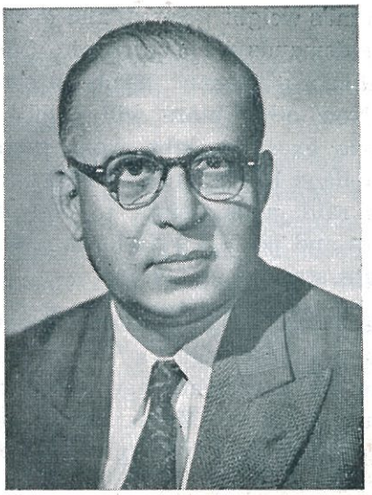
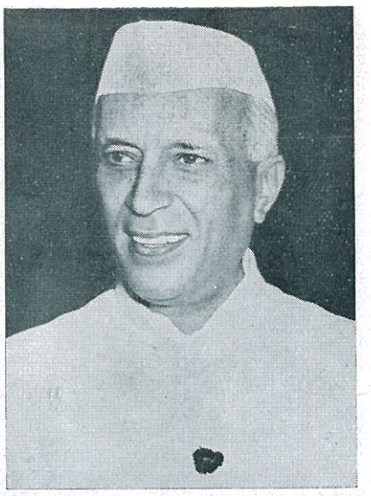


REVIEWED IN HOLLYWOOD

by

Our Special Correspondent



"This is not a malicious tirade against all pictures coming from Hollywood. This is a deliberate campaign only against bad and dangerous pictures—pictures which contain lust, crime, violence and other anti-social elements. Good pictures from Hollywood or from any other country are always welcome. Like all good things they sell themselves. But bad and dangerous pictures have to be pointed out to save our people from becoming degenerate and demoralised members of society. Hollywood producers have turned America into a big colony of violent and sadistic criminals. This section is therefore intended to prevent that tragedy in our peace-loving, non-violent country". Baburao Patel.

"By and large the pervasive influence of films is very great. It is not only pervasive but also widespread. Its influence may not be as deep as those of books, yet it is a strong influence in moulding the lives of people.....I am clear in my mind that crime and horror stories should be suppressed ruthlessly. Such stories were a hundred per cent bad, causing sadistic crimes. Such films encouraged children to murder for the sake of pleasure. No government or society should allow such things to flourish. Government ought to take ruthless action to prevent something turning into an instrument of evil." Prime Minister Nehru at the Film Seminar on February 27, 1955.

THE HOUSTON STORY (Columbia)

CAST: Gene Barry, Barbara Hale, Edward Arnold

"The Houston Story" is a dirty story and another picture which deserves to be returned to Hollywood from the Indian shores. It is a tale of murder and violence, intrigue and treachery, gunplay and gangsterism with a solid sprinkling of sordid sex. The main crime deals with stealing oil from pipelines and the criminals are a shrewd, scheming and ruthless oil driller and a big crime syndicate. What happens throughout is the familiar bustle and bluster of gangsters and the noise of guns and dynamites, but all the crime, violence and other sordid and sensational ingredients in the picture add up to provide an extremely unpalatable entertainment and positively objectionable for exhibition to masses. Social wisdom demands that this picture be banned outright in India and we trust the Censors would be intelligent enough to do so.

Set in Houston, the story deals with Gene Barry, an oil driller and a shrewd and ruthless crook, who has a scheme to steal oil and gasoline from pipelines and storage tanks in the Houston oil fields. Needing others' support in carrying out the scheme, Barry tries to get in touch with a crime syndicate and for the purpose strikes acquaintance with Barbara Hale, a sexy night-club singer, who arranges his meeting with Edward Arnold, one of the chiefs of a vast and powerful crime syndicate headed by John Zaremba. Barry presents his scheme in detail before the syndicate which accepts it assigning Barry to take charge of its operation under Arnold's supervision. Barry starts operating and the scheme brings huge profits from stolen oil while for his physical pleasure Barry has his sweetheart Jeanne Cooper as well as Barbara for a simultaneous secret affair. Barry is soon itching to replace Arnold as the local gang boss and by forcing Arnold into a scheme to dynamite the oil wells of an independent refiner and at the same time by secretly informing the police about the scheme, Barry succeeds in seeing Arnold shot dead and then contentedly waits for Zaremba to put him in Arnold's place. Zaremba, however, sees through Barry's treachery and immediately dispatches two gunmen to kill Barry quickly. The gunmen go to Barry's office but he manages to escape and rushes to Jeanne to ask her to visit his apartment and get money from his safe which will enable both of them to make a dash to some safe place. But before Jeanne reaches the apartment, Barbara has already taken out the money and is trying to make a getaway. But the two gunmen seize her, force her to give out Barry's whereabouts and then kill her. The gunmen rush for a final gun duel with Barry, while Jeanne summons the police. Barry emerges victorious in the duel by killing both the gunmen but in the end he yields to Jeanne's pleas and gives himself up to the police.

Final Verdict: Filled with murders, violence, gunplay and organized crime, this picture is a social menace and deserves to be banned by the Censors without the slightest hesitation. And now that India has oil refineries and pipelines of her own, this picture will soon teach a new crime to those who are in need of easy money.

HELL ON FRISCO BAY (Warner Bros.)

CAST: Alan Ladd, Edward G. Robinson, Joanne Dru

"Hell On Frisco Bay" is a brazen, furious, stinking crime picture. Ugly, naked crime and raw, roaring violence are served with a vengeance in this tale of dockside gangsterism. Crowded with gangsters, killers, crooked detectives and a horde of other rough, ready and shady characters, the picture is one long, hideous sight of murders and brutal fights with every alternate moment different characters raining blows on each other, pulling the trigger, shedding blood, reducing human beings to corpses or raw meat hunks, and generally fuming and fighting like wild, savage beasts. At the end one feels almost giddy with the impact of all the picture's furious violence and wonders where is any trace of decency, civilization,

Poise is the woman, they say. Nargis is known for her quiet and pleasant dignity in spite of being accompanied by a monkey sometimes. Meet her again in "Miss India", a social tale.

humanity or aestheticism in this one and a half hour long revolting portrait of crime and violence. This is the kind of picture which plants wrong and vicious ideas in picturegoers' minds by making crime and violence appear as legitimate items of thrill and adventure. We hope our Censors will be able to recognize an intensely anti-social picture in "Hell On Frisco Bay" and will ban it in the interests of society without the least hesitation.

The story revolves round Alan Ladd, a tough ex-cop, who has served a long term in prison for a murder he did not commit. Immediately after coming out of San Quentin, Ladd starts looking for the real murderer and thirsting for revenge. To add to his mental agitation is the fact that while he was in jail, his wife, Joanne Dru, had loved another man for a brief period and Ladd is not prepared to condone his wife's short lapse into infidelity. With the assistance of William Demarest, a police lieutenant, Ladd starts his killer hunt and soon comes up with the fact that the waterfront is in the grip of a ruthless racketeering gang headed by Edward G. Robinson and including Perry Lopez, his nephew, Paul Stewart, a professional killer, and Stanley Adams, another tough hoodlum. Ladd runs into Adams whom he beats up in a fierce fight and into Peter Hanson, a crooked detective in the pay of Robinson, who offers Ladd to join Robinson's gang.

Spurning the offer Ladd continues his hunt but before he can get some clues to the killer from Nestor Paiva, a fisherman, Paiva is murdered by the gangsters. Ladd then catches hold of Lopez in a night club and manages to get some worthwhile information from him after giving him a pasting. Finding that Ladd was becoming dangerous for him, Robinson once again tries to lure him into joining his gang as a top member but without success. Robinson now assigns Stewart to kill Lopez for having given information to Ladd. Stewart does the killing duly but when Robinson starts making advances to Fay Wray, Stewart's girl friend, and tries to menace her, Stewart decides to be tough in return with Robinson, even though Robinson had once saved Stewart from the electric chair. Stewart insists on Robinson making him his full partner and threatens to involve him in trouble if he did not agree. Feigning to agree to his demand Robinson instructs Hanson, the crooked detective, to kill Stewart while making a show of arresting him. But coming to know the scheme, Fay rushes to Ladd and promises to give him enough evidence that would prove that Robinson was guilty of the murder for which Ladd was framed and asks Ladd to help save Stewart. Towards the climax, desperate Robinson, seeing the law closing in upon him, makes a final bid to escape in his motor speedboat. As Stewart tries to prevent his escape, he is shot dead by Robinson. Ladd rushes after Robinson and managing to board his boat stages a final, furious fight in which Robinson is overpowered and captured by the police. In the end Ladd decides to forgive his wife and returns to her.

Final Verdict: This sordid portrait of naked crime and savage violence constitutes a screaming anti-social picture. Passing this picture for exhibition would mean encouraging propagation of crime and violence in the country. The Censors, therefore, must ban this picture as their bounden duty.

THREE BAD SISTERS (United Artists)

CAST: Marla English, Kathleen Hughes, John Bromfield

Hollywood is not interested in good people. It is only interested in portraying bad people and their bad deeds on the screen. That is Hollywood's conception of good entertainment. So here is a tale, as the title indicates, of three bad girls who constitute three utterly distasteful characters. One of the three sisters is not so much bad as unpleasant being a neurotic character, but the other two are two nasty little beasts in human form possessing between them greedy, murderous, malicious and immoral traits. Most of the time the girls are involved in crooked schemes, violent, sadistic episodes, immoral intrigues or other ugly and unpleasant incidents. With no love lost between them one tries to ruin the life of the other driven by greed, lust, jealousy or sometimes sheer morbid insanity. Throughout littered with sordid episodes the picture climaxes in successful and unsuccessful suicides, violent dementia and a violent death. All this spells utterly unethical and unpalatable entertainment which can be safely banned by the Censors to protect the picturegoers from a hideous and distasteful experience.

The three sisters are Sara Shane, the eldest and morally the best sister but a neurotic character, Kathleen Hughes, a scheming, sadistic woman with a distorted mind and murderous instincts, and Marla English, a brazen flirt full of lust and malice. Their father, a millionaire, dies in a plane crash but the news of his death brings no grief to Kathleen and Marla, and Kathleen particularly finds it more worthwhile to immediately start scheming about inheriting her father's wealth than to regret his death. She goes to John Bromfield, the pilot of the ill-fated plane, who is involved in an investigation because of the plane crashing in suspicious circumstances but who is ultimately freed of responsibility for the crash. She proposes to Bromfield that he pretend to make love to Sara, one of the executors of the dead millionaire's estate, and having won her confidence help Kathleen to inherit half of the huge real estate with the help of a forged document.

For participating in the scheme, Kathleen offers Bromfield a small fortune. Bromfield accepts the crooked deal, starts feigning love for Sara but soon sincerely falls in love with her and even gets married to her. After the marriage he reveals to Sara the crooked scheme Kathleen had hatched. Now Marla, not willing to let Sara be happy in marriage to Bromfield, starts making shameless advances to Bromfield in a bid to seduce him. That makes Kathleen furious who attacks Marla violently disfiguring her face and Marla finally ends by committing suicide. Kathleen next turns her attention to destroying Bromfield and Sara. When her attempts to murder them fail, she resorts to deception and leads Sara to believe that she and Bromfield are secret lovers. In frustration Sara tries to end her life by jumping into the sea. She is, however, saved by Bromfield who rushes to her rescue in time, while the in-

sanely furious Kathleen in trying to stop Bromfield from rescuing Sara, meets with a violent death in a car crash.

Final Verdict: This picture is a stinking brew of hate and greed, lust and violence, attempted murders and suicides, and deserves to be banned straightaway.

FURY AT GUNSIGHT PASS (Columbia)
CAST: David Brian, Neville Brand, Richard Long

The theme of "Fury At Gunsight Pass" is crime, its chief characters are bank robbers and the plot deals with the criminals' attempt to rob a small-town bank. The picture is utterly anti-social and it stinks from start to finish. There is no entertainment in the picture because some dirty criminal characters wildly shooting and killing their way to achieve their anti-social ends does not spell decent and wholesome entertainment. There is no enlightenment in the picture because there is nothing enlightening about the sordid, criminal deeds of bank-robbers and outlaws. This anti-social mixture of brazen crime, naked violence and morbid greed richly deserves to be banned if it is desired to curb crime in India.

The story deals with a gang of outlaws headed by Neville Brand who plans to rob a bank at Gunsight Pass, a small frontier town. As a step towards the bank robbery, Brand dispatches David Brian, his chief cohort, to Gunsight Pass with instructions to pass himself off as a businessman and make preparations for the commission of the crime. But Brian, a ruthless crook and a friend of nobody but himself, decides to double-cross Brand and carry out the robbery earlier than planned so that he may have the loot to himself. But with Richard Long, the son of Addison Richards, the banker, getting married that day, the bank happens to be closed and Brian's double-crossing scheme is unrealized. Brian and other outlaws, however, successfully loot the bank when it next opens and during the robbery kill Richards. The angry townspeople rush to prevent the robbers from escaping and during the excitement the bag containing the loot is grabbed by the local undertaker, another accomplice in the crime, who greedy enough to possess the whole loot himself hides the bag in a coffin.

Soon the undertaker is himself ready for the coffin when he is accidentally killed by a bullet. The townspeople capture the crooks for a short while but they are freed when Brand arrives on the scene with more outlaws and manages to subdue the town with the help of his gun. He then begins a hectic hunt for the missing loot and threatens that he will kill the citizens one by one unless the loot was handed over to him. Later Brand discovers Brian to be a double-cross only to be killed by him. By now the loot reaches the hands of the dead undertaker's wife, Katherine Warren, who makes a bid to run away with it in a funeral wagon taking advantage of a furious storm. Brian runs after her and she is killed in a fall from the hearse. In the end the murdered banker's son Long, aided by the townspeople, succeeds in capturing the outlaws who are brought to book.

Final Verdict: This stinking essay on crime, filled with loot, murder and violence, constitutes a glaring anti-social picture which must be banned by the Censors in the interests of society.

THE LONE RANGER (Warner Bros.)
CAST: Clayton Moore, Lyle Bettger, Bonita Granville

This is the usual distasteful tale from Hollywood in which Red Indians are pitted against whites to fill the screen with violence, savagery and human blood. This time the Indians aren't guilty of any provocation and the whites generally aren't itching for trouble either, but since someone must make them bash each other's head, there are a couple of greedy, ruthless white trouble-shooters who stage a lot of violent, bloody villainy putting the blame on the Indians. That strategy

A "noo" candidate makes the old secretary stare and think. But what is important is the employer's eyes. When they open wide and start rolling you can be sure Nargis gets a job in "Miss India", a modern tale of love.

succeeds to some extent in working up the whites against the Indians, while the dishonest accusations against them get the Red Indians also ready to don the war paint. Of course, it all ends with the real villains being exposed and punished and a whites versus Indians battle being prevented, but the picture manages to pack in plenty of unnecessary violence and bloodshed which is just the reason that this picture's exhibition is undesirable in India. We do hope the Censors will ban this putrid package of violence parading as entertainment for the masses.

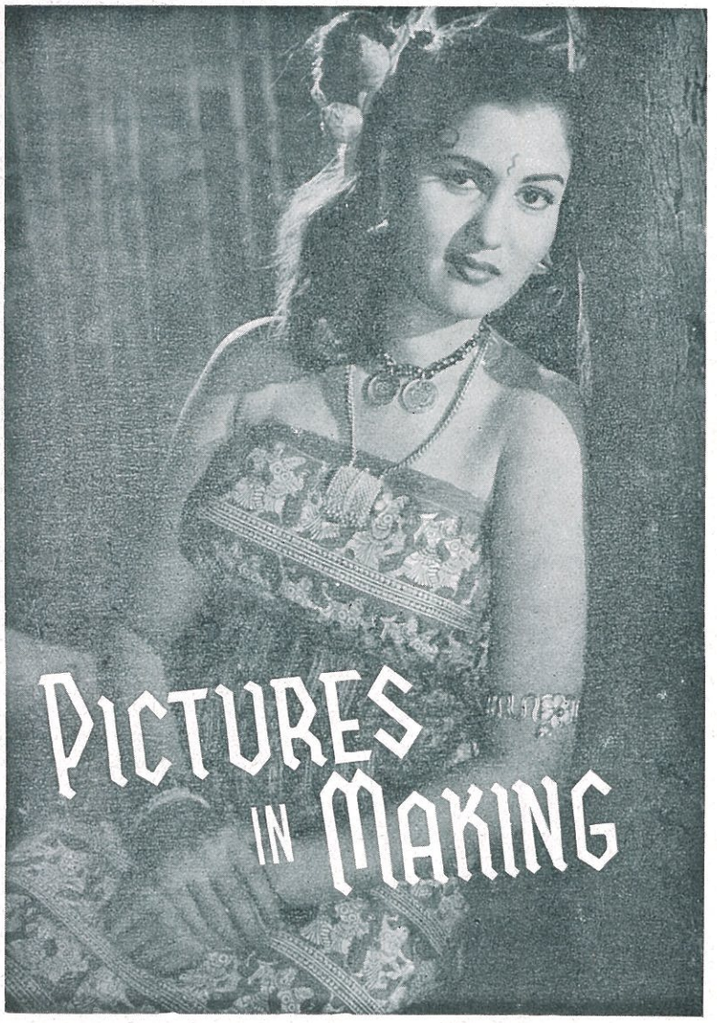
The tale deals with Clayton Moore, who is called by people as the Lone Ranger, and Jay Silverheels, a trusted Indian friend of Moore, both of whom arrive together in the cattle town of Brasada where exists explosive tension between the whites and the Indians. Carefully concealing the fact that he has been deputed by the Governor of the place to remove trouble and trouble makers from the territory and bring about harmony between the whites and the Indians, Moore pretends to be a prospector and gets about the business of quietly investigating the trouble. He soon learns that Lyle Bettger, a prosperous rancher and outwardly a good-natured man, is in reality a ruthless greedy crook out to foment trouble between the whites and the Indians motivated by his greedy self-interest which lies in keeping the territory from statehood.

To further his ends Bettger had hired a gang of gunmen led by Robert Wilke who staged numerous raids, rustlings and killings merely to enable Bettger to throw the blame for them on the Indians in the nearby reservation and to provoke the local whites' ire against them. After a visit to the leader of the Indians, Moore discovers that they were also in a warring mood provoked by the false accusations against them. Towards the climax, Bettger gets ready to annihilate the Indians in a treacherous ambush in a narrow mountain pass. But Moore learns about this scheme from Bettger's wife in good time and rushes to the scene to keep the two groups from battling by hurling dynamite sticks between them. By now U.S. cavalry troops arrive on the scene to take over the show and it all ends with wily Bettger trying a last chance to save himself by putting the whole blame on Wilke who shoots Bettger dead before being overpowered himself.

Final Verdict: This is an utterly unpleasant picture of unnecessary violence and bloodshed and as such is an undesirable piece of entertainment.

NARGIS—

No one could have portrayed the immortal traditional dignity of the Indian woman better on the screen than Nargis, the inimitable star of the Indian screen. Meet her in the all-time colour classic, "Mother India", produced and directed by Mehboob for Mehboob Productions Ltd.



Some women have several seasons of youth and every season has a costume of its own. Here is an attractive proposition in an attractive costume for weary eyes. Meet Shashikala in her new youthful season in "Pyar Ka Geet", a sensational social entertainer directed by Sarvottam Badami and produced by Famous Pictures Ltd.

GEMINI STUDIOS (Madras)

Producer-director S.S. Vasan's "Insaniyat" is still attracting big crowds in Bombay and elsewhere. With Dilip Kumar, Dev Anand and Bina Rai in the leading roles and Vijaylaxmi, Jayant, Agha, Kumar, Jairaj etc. providing the supporting cast, the picture is truly star-studded. And another who demands inclusion in the star list is Zippy — the talented Hollywood chimpanzee. As to Producer Vasan's future plans, he has in mind a Technicolor, Cinemascope film in Hindi and Tamil, and probably in English too. At the moment, plans are being readied, and once they are ready Producer Vasan is expected to finish the picture with his usual fast speed. Gemini's immediate next is a sensitive village tale in Hindi and Tamil to be photographed in black and white.

THE SCREENS (Bombay)

The production of "Jayshri" has been completed and the picture was to be presented before the censors in the third week of February. It is expected to be released all over India in the month of March. Starring Nimmi and Pradeep Kumar in the romantic lead, the picture draws fine support from Lalita Pawar, Jayant, Jeevan, Radhakishen and Roopmala etc. Another noteworthy performer is the little Disey Irani, who became an overnight child star with "Bandish". Based on a popular Tamil hit, "Jayshri" portrays the nobility of a mother who forgiving a tyrant for victimising her son, undergoes much trouble in order to protect the daughter of the same tyrant. Its screenplay is written by Pt. Mukhram Sharma, the music is by Chitragupta, the lyrics by G.S. Nepali and choreography by Gopi Krishna. Balchander Shukla and Harsookh Bhatt are the joint directors of the pictures.

DESH CHITRA (Bombay)

"Nirvana", the forthcoming Ansco-coloured production of Author-producer Dewan Sharar, is assured of a fast production schedule, the way Producer Dewan Sharar is making careful plans. A story of the Buddhist period seeking to portray the life of Vasavadatta, the legendary courtesan, the picture stars Vyjayantimala in the role of Vasavadatta and Abhi Bhattacharya in the role of Upagupta, the Buddhist monk. In the supporting cast are David, Gope, Roopmala, Jairaj and Venus Bannerjee etc. The direction is by Jaigopal.

MEHBOOB PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Producer-director Mehboob has shot and canned more footage for his prestige picture "Mother India", being made in Gevacolor. There are, however, still a few months to go before the picture will be complete, as Producer Mehboob is working in a perfectionist spirit. "Mother India" stars Nargis, Raj Kumar, Sajjad, Jillobai etc. with haunting music provided by Naushad. Meanwhile, two more pictures of Mehboob Productions promise rich entertainment to the picture-goers. "Aawaz", starring Nalini Anil Biswas and lyrics by Majrooh Sultanpuri. The story writer is S. Ali Raza.

BIMAL ROY PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Producer-director Bimal Roy's "Devdas" has received generous praises in Calcutta, Delhi and other places where it was released. Starring Dilip Kumar, Suchitra Sen, Vyjayantimala, Motilal and Johnny Walker etc., the picture brings to the screen, for the second time in Hindi, the famed classic of Sarat Chatterjee. The music is by S. D. Burman, while the songs are written by Sahir Ludhianvi. The picture is shortly to be released in Bombay.

MARS & MOVIES (Bombay)

"Seema", an intense social theme by Producer-director Amiya Chakrabarty, is still going strong in Bombay. Nutan, Balraj Sahani, Shubha Khote, Sunder, Pratima Devi etc. constitute the important members of the cast, while Shankar and Jaikishan provide the music. Producer Amiya Chakrabarty performed the muhurt of his social, "Kath Putli", which will go into shooting soon.

SHRI VISHWA BHARATI FILMS LTD. (Bombay)

"Basant Bahar", a glorious musical theme, is making fast progress under the guidance of Producer R. Chandra and the direction of Raja Nawathe. The story is woven round a South Indian singer played by Bharat Bhushan. Nimmi plays the female lead. In the supporting cast

Plans Under Way For Vasan's Cinemascope Venture — "Jayshri" Ready For Release — Mehboob's "Mother India" Makes Steady Progress — "Bhai Bhai" Team Shoots in Bombay — "Devdas" To Have Early Bombay Release — "Hari Har Bhakti" Threatens To Be A Success.

Jaywant, Usha Kiron, Rajendra Kumar, Zul Vellani, Anwar etc., is almost complete and if all goes according to plans should be released during the middle of March 1956. The musical score of "Aawaz" is composed by Salil Chaudhury. The director is Zia Sarhady. "Paisa-Hi-Paisa", the other picture, is making fast progress under the direction of Mehrish. It stars Kishore, Shakila, Mala Sinha, Zul Vellani, Mukri etc. and has music by are Om Prakash, Chandrashekhar, Leela Chitnis, S. K. Prem and Kum Kum etc. Shankar and Jaikishan provide the music, while Shailendra writes the lyrics.

SADIQ PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Producer-director M. Sadiq has nearly completed "Chhoo Mantar", his latest musical comedy, The picture stars Shyama and Karan Dewan in the romantic lead and Om Prakash, Johnny

Walker, Anita Guha, Sunder, Amar etc. in the supporting cast. O. P. Nayyar provides the music with emphasis on rhythm.

SHAH PICTURES (Bombay)

"Indra Sabha" has emerged as a good mythological picture and Producer Ramniklal N. Shah is planning its release soon. The cast of the picture is led by Chitra and Diljeet and includes Hiralal, Al Nasir, Murad etc. Music is by A. R. Khureshi and direction is by Nanubhai Vakil. Meanwhile, Shah Pictures' next is "Anar Bala".

AVM PRODUCTIONS (Madras)

In early February Director M. V. Raman came to Bombay with the "Bhai Bhai" unit for some outdoor shots. Kamala Nehru Park and Gateway of India were some of the locations utilized and a good amount of footage was canned. "Bhai Bhai" stars Nimmi, Kishore, Ashok Kumar, Nirupa Roy, Shyama, David, Om Prakash etc. and tells a dramatic tale in an entertaining manner. The dialogue and lyrics are written by Rajendra Krishna, while the music is composed by Madan Mohan. The picture is being readied for early release. Meanwhile, "Chori Chori", starring Nargis, Raj Kapoor, Bhagwan, Gope, Johnny Walker and Mukri etc. is making fast progress under Director Anant Thakur.

AMBITIOUS PICTURES (Bombay)

"Rangeen Raten", starring Geeta Bali, Shammi Kapoor, Mala Sinha and Chand Usmani etc. has been completed at last. Producer-director Kidar Sharma is reported to have made the picture at once artistic and entertaining with his directorial skill and aesthetic eye.

ALL INDIA PICTURES (Bombay)

Producer P. N. Arora has completed a good length of "Anjaan" which stars Vyjayantimala, Pradeep Kumar, Johnny Walker etc. in the leading roles. Producer Arora is simultaneously busy with "Halaku" which portrays the exploits of Genghis Khan's son. Playing the main roles in "Halaku" are Ajit, Meena Kumari and Pran. The picture is directed by D. D. Kashyap.

RAGHUVIR CHITRA NIKETAN (Bombay)

Producer-director C. Raghuvir's "Hari Har Bhakti" has been passed by the censors and the picture is now scheduled for early release. Starring Asha Mathur, Trilok Kapoor, Shahu Modak, Durga Khote and Ullhas etc., the picture is reported to have become a great devotional tale with vast appeal for picturegoers. K. Dutta, who provides the music, is said to have given some highly melodious songs, a couple of which are expected to become hits. Thus, according to reports, "Hari Har Bhakti" should prove to be one of the finest mythologicals of the year.

FAMOUS PICTURES LTD. (Bombay)

Sarvottam Badami, the veteran director who for the past ten years has been busy with documentary films, returns to feature film direction in "Pyar Ka Geet", an enchanting tale of music and romance written by Director Badami himself. "Pyar Ka Geet" stars Shashikala, Daljit, Jeevan, David and Nigar Sultana, etc. Its script and dialogue are written by Baij Sharma, songs by Tanvir Naqvi, while the music is composed by the veteran pair, Husanlal and Bhagatram. With "Pyar Ka Geet', Famous Pictures turn their attention anew to feature films which has lately been rather concentrated on advertisement shorts. Another Famous picture under production is "Chandrahasa".

RAMESH FILM DISTRIBUTORS (Bombay)

This firm has added one more picture to their list and it is Navketan's "Funtoosh", starring Dev Anand. Their other pictures ininclude "Pocket Maar", starring Geeta Bali, Dev Anand, Nadira, Gope etc., M. Sadiq's "Chhoo Mantar" and "Mohar".

VAKIL PRODUCTIONS & DESAI PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Producer - director Nanubhai Vakil has been working hard and steadily on his offerings for 1956, which include "Lal-e-Yaman" and "Yahudi-ki-Beti". "Lal-e-Yaman" stars Anita Guha, Diljeet, Al Nasir, Chand Burque and Helen etc., and has music by A. R. Qureshi. Four songs have already been recorded and three reels are complete. Meanwhile, "Yahudi-ki-Beti", starring Baby Tabassum, Anita Guha, Diljeet etc. is shortly to go on the sets under the banner of Desai Productions.

ROOPNAGAR LTD. (Bombay)

"Fifty-Fifty", starring Nalini Jaywant, M. Rajan, David, Manmohan Krishna, Sunder, Gope, Om Prakash etc. is awaiting release in Bombay. Madan Mohan provides the music, while Rajendra Krishan writes the lyrics. The picture is directed by Producer Roshanlal Malhotra himself.

In olden days women entered kitchens and got their graduation degrees by becoming brides. Things have changed since. Now they go to the universities and come out with those picturesque gowns to give bedside lectures to their men and make them run to the doctor for rejuvenation. Let us see what Nargis does in "Miss India", a social romance.

SAIGAL PRODUCTIONS LTD. (Bombay)

"26th January", starring Nalini Jaywant, Ajit, Johnny Walker etc. is being shot at a fast pace and is expected to be ready for release by March. The musical score of this spectacular fantasy is composed by C. Ramchandra, while the lyrics are written by Rajendra Krishan. Director Ramesh Saigal expects "26th January" to be a sensational success.

FAVOURITE FILMS (Bombay)

"Maalik", starring Suraiya, Talat Mahmood, Jeevan and Mukri etc. is making fast progress under Director S. M. Yusuf. A lilting musical score is provided by Ghulam Mohamed, and reports credit the picture with a lot of entertainment value.

DOSSI FILMS LTD. (Bombay)

Director Nandlal Jaswantlal has nearly completed "Taj" and the picture is expected to reach the screen soon. The picture stars Vyjayantimala, Pradeep Kumar, Bipin Gupta, Jeevan, Roopmala etc., and has a melodious musical score by Hemant Kumar. Photography is by the ace-cameraman Fali Mistry. Lyrics are by Rajendra Krishan, and this combination of stars and technicians is expected to bring great success to the picture.

DE LUX FILMS (Bombay)

Director Mohan Segal—now turned Producer too—is reported to be working at a furious speed on the sets of "New Delhi", his maiden production. The picture features Vyjayantimala, Kishore, Radhakishen, Nazir Hussein, Mirza Musharraf etc., and tells a topical tale written by Inder Raj Anand. The musical direction is entrusted to Shankar and Jaikishan.

EAGLE FILMS (Bombay)

Producer F. C. Mehra's "Sipah Salar", a tale of suspense and adventure, is complete and scheduled for release in Bombay on the 9th March. Shammi Kapoor and Nadira head the cast which includes Helen, Kumkum, Cuckoo, Kamal Mehra, S. Nazir etc. The picture is directed by Mohd. Hussain.

SUPER PICTURES (Bombay)

For his next picture Producer-director Aspi has selected "Shirin Farhad"—the old classic love tale. The picture stars Madhubala as Shirin and Pradeep Kumar as Farhad. Others in the cast include Amita, Kamal etc. Shooting has already begun at the Basant Studios.

DELIGHT PICTURES LTD. (Bombay)

Producer Chimanlal Trivedi is busy with the production of "Rupkumari" and "Dev Danav". "Rupkumari" features Shakila, Mahipal, Chandrashekhar, Tiwari, Bipin Gupta, Roopmala etc. and contains music by S. N. Tripathi. "Dev Danav" is a devotional theme featuring the same stars in the lead. Its songs are written by Pt. Pradipji with S. N. Tripathi again providing the music.

MADHUBALA—

Charming as ever, this popular star plays perhaps the greatest role of her life as Shirin in that immortal classic, "Shirin Farhad", produced and directed by Aspi for Super Pictures.

WE NEED THEM

The legal aid movement in America which began in New York City, way back in 1876, has now spread to 154 cities in its 80 years' career and helped 10 million people to solve their legal problems, either free or at a nominal fee.

These legal aid societies provide professional advice and other legal assistance to people who cannot afford to hire a lawyer. The job of legal aid lawyers is to bring about agreements in law disputes and to conciliate divorce actions. When necessary they represent clients in both Municipal and Federal Courts.

Most legal aid organisations are independent bodies financed by community donations and generous citizens. Some are bureaus of local governments and do receive some support through taxation.

Some of the societies charge reasonable fees depending on the economic status of the client or advise him to consult local lawyers who charge moderate, fixed rates. The really poor ones, however, get free legal aid.

One advantage of going through the legal body is that for a nominal fee, the small claims courts allow a plaintiff to present a case involving small sums of money informally and directly to a judge who then gives a decision. In almost all states there are boards which dispose off quickly cases of workers injured in industrial accidents and give them prompt compensation.

Since 1912, the various legal aid groups have had a national organisation. In 1949 they adopted the name of National Legal Aid Association and established their headquarters at 328, Main Street, Rochester.

Most of our lawyers here reap a rich harvest often at the expense of the poor client. Even to decide legitimate claims, our courts usually take years owing to the circuitous nature of law.

TAX BARGAINING

Though Italy recently passed a new law that makes evasion of income tax a penal offence for the first time, punishable with a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment, the Italian taxpayers, it seems, have evolved their own peculiar ways of circumventing the law.

Tax assessment in Italy is done in the following way. The taxpayer takes a guess at his income. The municipal tax collector takes into account the taxpayer's possessions and makes his guess from two to thirty times as high and submits his estimate. Then the two parties haggle and finally compromise at a figure lying between the two extremes. The public declarations of taxpayers are made without oath.

For instance, Italian actress, Gina Lollobrigida, is reported to have earned $128,000 each for each of her three films last year. Gina admitted having earned just $40,000 for all the three films. The tax collector put it at a total of $128,000. Another popular actress Sophia Loren is said to have been paid $480,000 for her film roles, but she said that she earned only $13,000. The tax collector calculated her earnings at $40,000. In some cases, however, the tax collectors are not so chivalrous. Prince Alessandro Torlonia, son-in-law of Spain's former King Alfonso XIII, was charged $1,280,000 income tax though he said his income was $42,400. Anna Magnani, another actress guessed her income at $3,200 but was assessed $48,000. Pietro Valdoni, one of the leading surgeons of Rome, confessed to an income of $24,000 but had to shell out $120,000.

And so the game of earning and dodging the income tax authorities goes on in Italy.

A RARE WOMAN

Domestic wrangles are a common occurrence and assume various shapes and proportions. So after a quarrel when Frenchman Julian Lefebure of Roubaix threatened his wife with, "I am going to hang myself", the wife retorted, "At your leisure".

Madame Germaine Lefebure then quietly watched her husband do the job. And Julian did hang himself. Two hours later, Madame Germaine called the police and said, "My husband has committed suicide. If it hadn't been him, it would have been me."

The police charged her with failure to give help to a person in danger of death. Madame must be having icy cold blood in her veins to watch a husband hanging himself to death. Can inhumanity go further?

God makes them in many models to make a man's life at once colourful and confusing. This one has charmed not only the film-goers but also the film producers. Meet Shakila in "Paisa Hi Paisa", a social story produced by Mehboob Productions.

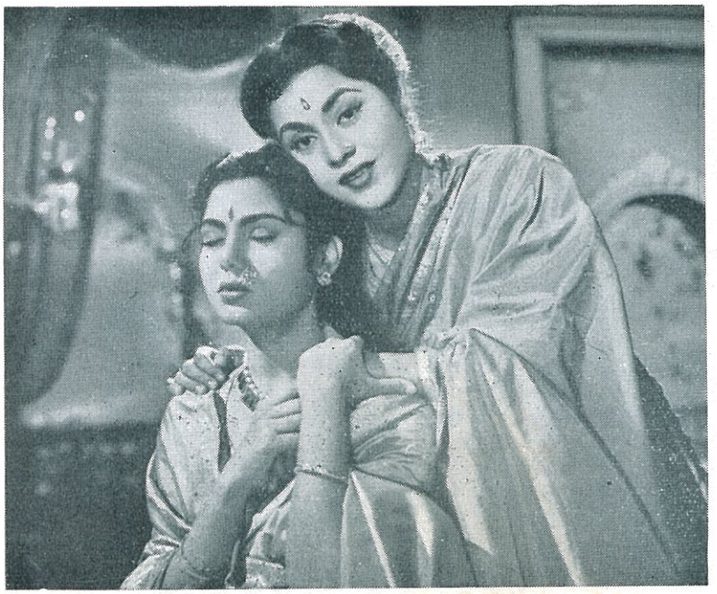
DIONNE DEVILS

The famous Dionne quintuplets who made history twenty-one years ago are again in the news. Considered to be biological freaks, the quintuplets—Yvonne, Annette, Marie, Cecilie and Emilie—earned over a million dollars which were kept in trust till they became 21.

The parents guarded them most jealously with the result that their childhood was far from happy and care-free. But when they reached their 21st year, they became little rebels, with the million dollars under their control. For the first time they felt they were free. Emilie, however, died in 1954. Yvonne and Cecilie became nurses in Montreal while Annette took to the study of music. Marie tried to become a nun but gave up the struggle before long.

Last December, Papa Oliva Dionne of Corbeil, Ontario, called a press conference and complained about his daughters not coming home for Christmas for the first time in their life. Touched by these remarks, the four daughters later returned home to console Papa and Mama.

An executive of the trust



When desires synchronize, youth consoles youth. Kum Kum knows how Nimmi feels in "Basant Bahar", a romantic tale produced by Shri Vishwabharati Films.

company said, "For the first time they are making their own decisions. They are enjoying a normal social life—they have friends of both sexes, and they like to dance and listen to music and go to shows...."

It looks as if the patient quadruplets have at last broken away from the parental shell.

DEMOCRATIC AMERICA

The Jackson City Council, Mississippi, U.S., has passed an order authorising jail sentences and fines for people violating municipal segregation laws in railways and bus stations.

The order came into effect on January 13. The fines range from 25 to 100 dollars or a 30-day sentence or both for those violating the laws.

The southerners evidently want to perpetuate segregation though many recent U.S. Federal Court decisions have been in favour of the Negroes and democratic in the true sense.

LIQUID FAITH

In East Griqualand, S. Africa, there is reported to exist a 'Lourdes' and the story of this miraculous spring is even stranger.

An 18-year-old African girl, who was suffering from a malady, said that an angel came in a dream and told her about a spring of holy water. Before dying, she told her mother to go into one of her father's fields and pull out a tuft of grass. As the mother did so, water gushed forth in a stream, the flow of which has not weakened since.

The spring water has cured many of stomach aches and even more serious ailments. An analysis of the water done by a White doctor, however, revealed no medicinal properties.

UNTO ITS OWN

"La Prensa", the most popular newspaper of Buenos Aires, which was forced to close down on January 26, 1951, after a bitter campaign unleashed against it by the now ousted President Juan Peron, has been returned to its legitimate owners at last by the Argentine Government.

Founded in 1869 by Jose Paz who gave the business to his son Ezequeil, it was passed on to Ezequeil's newphew Alberto Gainza Paz, the present owner of "La Prensa".

Apart from unique news coverage, "La Prensa" works on socialistic ideals where employees are cared for as if they all belonged to one family. For instance if a reporter or linotyper died suddenly, his widow would receive her husband's salary every month as compensation.

But the best part of "La Prensa" management was its services to the people whether they bought the paper or not or whether they were Argentinians or not. It maintained clinics in all branches of medicine and surgery and doctors considered it an honour to serve in "La Prensa" clinics. It treated free 3000 cases a month on an average. "La Prensa" ran a free public library, a free legal aid clinic, laboratories, etc. No wonder people in Argentina are thrilled that their popular newsper has been resurrected.

In India newspaper magnates seem to believe only in huge profits as the be-all and end-all of newspaper journalism.

REHABILITATING GANGSTERS

Father Nichele Blandino Della Croce, an Italian Roman Catholic priest, will soon start a home for ex-gangsters from U.S.A. who are unable to find jobs in Italy.

Financial backing for this scheme is being given by Charles "Lucky" Luciano, former U.S. 'Vice King', now running a successful medical equipment shop in Naples.

Ex-gangsters will be taught trades which will help them to find jobs. Said Father Nichele, "The ways of Providence are infinite, and this way which is opening up for ex-gangsters is one of them." The Italian Government has given the building to be converted into an ex-gangsters' home.

Father Nichele came into limelight since he brought about the release of Fascist era political prisoners from the prison island of Procida.

LEANING AND LEANING

According to Professor Giuseppe Boaga, president of the Italian Topographical Society, the famous leaning tower of Pisa may collapse in the near future as it leans an additional millimeter each year. He suggested to a Scientific Congress in Florence that the 12th century tower be dismantled stone by stone and then rebuilt on hard and firm foundation.

Dr. Piero Sampaolesi, the local superintendent of Monuments in Pisa, thinks that the Tower of Pisa started leaning because its foundation was not laid properly in the soft sandy soil surrounding the cathedral. Others think that the 179-foot tower constructed over a period of ten years 1272 to 1282 by adding more storeys, was deliberately meant to lean from the beginning. Legend has it that one of the designers was a hunchback and that is why he wanted a leaning tower.

However, Italy does have other leaning bell towers though not as famous as the Pisa one. They are Asinelli Tower at Bologna, Garisenda Tower, etc.

The people of Pisa don't like the idea of anyone tampering with their beloved landmark and say, "Let it fall but don't touch it. A tower pulled down and put up again would no longer be our tower."

A commission of engineers which recently inspected the Pisa tower said that if it leans just one more foot, its centre of gravity will fall outside its foundation and down it will topple. And yet the leaning tower of Pisa continues to lean and baffle engineers.

COMMUNISM A CRIME

The Federal Appeals Court of U.S. affirmed a decision that it is a crime to belong to the Communist Party.

Claude Lightfoot, 46, executive secretary of the Communist Party in Illinois, was convicted a year ago under a section of the Smith Act which made membership in the party a crime. Though many Communists had been found guilty of conspiring to organise groups to "teach, advocate or encourage" the violent overthrow of the Government, Lightfoot was

the first to be convicted simply for membership in any organisation advocating violent overthrow of the Government. Lightfoot had argued that the membership clause in the Smith Act was unconstitutional because "it imputes guilt solely by reason of association".

Indian Communists are luckier. In spite of their avowed adherence to violence, they often escape consequences because of Pandit Nehru's warm affection for Bulganin and Khruschev. But someday we will also need an Indian Smith to campaign for a law declaring our Communist gangsters as criminals.

SYMPHONY IN DUSK

Jean Julius Christian Sibelius, considered to be the world's greatest living composer, recently celebrated his 90th birthday and looking at him, one gets the impression that he is fast heading for a centenary.

Ten years ago, the Finnish composer was suffering from extreme malnutrition, the state pension of Rs. 3900 a year having been rendered useless through the devaluation of Finnish currency. A committee was set up in London and funds raised for Sibelius so that he could carry on his composing work without worry.

Sibelius' contribution to music has both quantity and quality and compares favourably with Mozart. Since the last 25 years, however, he has not composed a new piece and his eighth symphony begun a few years ago has still to see the light of day. Straight like one of his own Finnish pines and still smoking a dozen Havana cigars a day, Sibelius may yet give another masterpiece to the world before he departs on his eternal journey.

CHECKING GREED

Child prodigies are always much sought after and 13-year-old Daniel Barenboim of Buenos Aires, a music genius, could easily earn £40,000 a year if he only accepted all the contracts offered to him. But Papa Barenboim knows how to conserve his son's talent. He has limited his son's playing season at three months a year.

Daniel is at the moment in London for a concert with a leading London orchestra. He made his first public appearance at the age of seven. His parents have chalked out his educational schedule in consultation with three eminent child specialists.

The parents evidently don't believe in the maxim, "Making hay while the sun shines", as in India. They want their child prodigy to last long.

LESBIAN LILY

Sessions Judge of Ahmednagar, Mr. V. R. Paraikar, ordered Miss Kusum Bandelu, a 25-year-old lady teacher in a high school, to enter into a bond for good behaviour. The accused was charged with entering into a suicide pact with a pupil.

The prosecution alleged that the accused and the pupil wrapped themselves in their saris and jumped into a well at Bhistag on October 28, 1954. The pupil was drowned but the teacher lived to tell the story.

Because of the young age of the accused, the Sessions Judge didn't give her any sentence. She was ordered to keep good behaviour and released on fur-

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That is Chitra's Arab and it is difficult to imagine an Arab with curly hair. But then camels also have curly hair these days in Basra. Chitra and Diljit give us a new version of Arab love in "Basre-ki-Hoor", a romantic tale of desert love enacted in the forests of Ghodbunder.

nishing a bond of Rs. 1000 with two sureties in like amount.

We can understand a young love-lorn couple jumping into the well to prove the immortality of their love. But what prompted the young lady teacher to enter into this strange pact with a girl pupil—homosexual love?

ARCH-ANGEL ADAM

Here is something for die-hard sceptics who love to pooh pooh anything that can't stand the test of rationalism. Well-known columnist and former editor of a psychical research newspaper, Hannen Swaffer, mentioned an interesting incident in his column of "Daily Herald" of a piano in his flat rising in the air whenever Archie Adams, a friend of his, played a Hawaiian tune on it.

Said Swaffer, "Up went the piano, to our astonishment, in broad daylight, to make a loud noise when it hit the floor again. Invariably, whenever Archie played the same tune, the piano would rise a few inches and make such a noise on descending that Graham Simmons an artist who lived underneath complained about it."

The piano was moved probably by spirit forces and the phenomenon only happened if that particular tune was played and only if Archie Adams played it.

MUSIC FEEDS

Professor T.C.N. Singh, head of the department of botany, made some interesting revelations on the effect of music on plants when he gave a lecture with slides and photographs to a sceptical audience at the Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleobotany, Lucknow, recently.

Prof. Singh got the first visual proof of success on December 10, 1952, when his research assistant reported to him an acceleration in the movement of the chloroplast inside the protoplasm of a hydrilla leaf. The action was being watched under the microscope and with a stop-watch.

Male voices had no visible result on plants but they responded well to the music of female voices, because the pitch of the female voice is higher than that of the male. During the last three years, Prof. Singh experimented with the effect of music on plants of balsam, chillies, sugar, tapioca, sweet potatoes, etc. over specified periods and found that it helps in speedy and healthy growth of plants. Music also induces histological changes in these plants.

Some ragas however caused decay in plants. A chilly plant decayed when treated by an evening raag. The plants also suffered from fatigue when subjected to an overdose of music.

Prof. Singh said that the International University at Pondicherry, established by Aurobindo, was soon going to test the effect of music on crops on a large scale.

Anyway Singh's experiments have opened new lines of investigation in plant physiology. Evidently plants have an ear for music as much as we do. Why not try crooner Lata's songs on the crops? We may get a richer harvest than in the past. But Lata's song must not be tried in Congress circles, otherwise it will grow more mushrooms.

PRICE OF WAR

While America and Russia are already spoiling for World War III, the British Government is still paying out compensation to private individuals, companies and organizations whose buildings were damaged by German air raids, during World War II.

Last year the War Damage Commission reported a payment of £27,250,000 bringing the total since payments began to £1,174,000,000, which covered 4,678,000 separate payments.

Greater London's share of last year's payments was far bigger than that of any other area—£15,500,000. Taking the country as a whole, commercial buildings received £5,500,000, factories got £4,000,000, churches were given £3,250,000 and shops £2,250,000.

All this shows that we have not yet recovered from the after effects of the last war. How then can John Foster Dulles directly encourage warmongering?

WALKIE-TALKIE

Champion walker, 24-year-old Robert Mendel of Toronto, Canada, walked non-stop 540 miles and created a new walking record. Robert covered this distance in 175 hours and required seven pairs of shoes in doing it. Three years ago he escaped from Czechoslovakia by walking out of the country.

He is now bent on playing non-stop table tennis as he likes 'plenty of exercise'.

So our bhoodan 'bhoot', Vinoba Bhave, is not the only walking expert!

FASTING FIEND

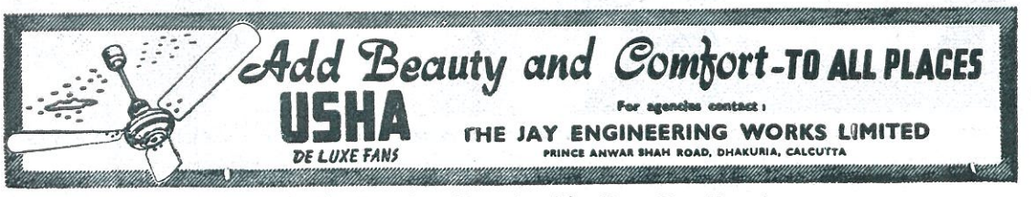
Usually we hear of fasting feats performed by men but in this age of equality of sexes, women don't want to be left behind.

Recently a Polish-Brazilian woman, Mrs. Cecilia Ribocki Ribeiro, claimed a world record for fasting by women. She said that she had gone without food for 57 days and she would try to go 11 more days without food. Her husband, Mr. Manuel Urbano Ribeiro, holds the record for fasting by men—110 days.

One good thing about these fasting fiends is that their food problem is reduced to the minimum.

SUBSTITUTE HEART

A team of five surgeons at Louisiana State University's medical school, U.S., performed a 90-minute pioneering operation on a dog using an artificial heart-lung. The artificial heart-lung is a unique device costing only two dollars and it can take over the functions of the heart and the lungs for 30-minute periods while the surgeons get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time to perform the most corrective surgery.

The ultra-simple heart-lung helped four other dogs to come out successfully through heart surgery. The use of devices to bypass the flow of blood to and from the heart is not new but the cheapness of the apparatus used makes it different. It can be easily produced on a mass scale, as it consists of one dollar worth of tubing and 50 cents worth of plastic.

SYNTHETIC LOVE MACHINE

French scientists have invented a plastic artificial heart weighing 280 grams (slightly over half a pound) and made of a material called "Vitablium". This is the only plastic material that is readily tolerated by the human or animal organism. The artificial heart has a pneumatic motor. The joints linking the arteries and veins attached to the artificial heart are made of a specially imported rubber material.

THICKENING BLOOD

At the fifth annual conference of blood specialists attended by 200 delegates from U.S., Canada and Europe at Detroit, three Swiss scientists announced the discovery of a new blood coagulator called Factor X.

People suffering from hepatitis or live cirrhosis were said to be deficient in Factor X.

TEST TUBE FRUIT

Dr. C. A. Schroeder, horticulturist at the University of California, has been able to maintain fruit cell growth in test tubes for as long as five months from tiny plugs of avocados and citron.

This is perhaps the first time that the proliferation of horticulturally mature fruit has been shown in test tube culture.

SQUIRRELS BEAT THEM

The Yankee may be in love with his chewing gum but the Eastern grey squirrel, technically called Sciurus carolinensis, seems to be an addict thriving on the lead sheath in which telephone wires are encased. And it is estimated by the Bell Telephone Laboratories, that every year the grey squirrel gnaws through half a million dollars worth of U.S. cable.

For years, the Laboratories have carried on a relentless war against the grey squirrel. First they tried putting salt discs in containers on telephone poles. The squirrels took to the salt for a year but again came back to the cables. Gnawing of cables results in short circuit and consequently disrupts communications.

Many squirrel deterrents like weasel scent, tree paint, steel-tape armour, electric shock devices, 24" barriers of galvanised iron on telephone poles, etc., were used but the squirrels came out triumphant every time managing to get at the lead sheath. The A.S.P.C.A. would not allow lethal measures to exterminate the squirrels.

After fifty years of struggle, they think it is cheaper to treat the damage than indulge in preventive measures. Said Engineer Smith of Wisconsin, "It's hopeless; we're suspending study of the problem."

The squirrels have scored a victory over human beings without resorting to hydrogen bombs. Damn clever!

DANISH CLOCK

Tourists in Copenhagen, Denmark, are very much intrigued by the colossal astronomical clock in the Town Hall which was set in motion a few days

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before Christmas by King Frederik IX of Denmark.

This complex astronomical clock was the brain child of clockmaker Jens Olsen who died in 1945. He took 40 years to conceive the clock and work out the details by manufacturing its multiple parts—15,000 to be exact—and supervised its production till the end.

The clock will run for more than 1000 years, deviating in its measurement of sidereal time by 2|5ths of a second for every 300 years. It can accurately calculate the position of the stars in the universe for the next 25,700 years. The clock has 445 toothed wheels revolving at rates varying from once every ten seconds to once every 25,000 years and is housed in an airtight glass case where humidity and temperature are controlled.

ANOTHER GADGET

Homles Electrical Protection Company, U.S., has designed a new device, the 'Exit Lock', to foil the 'Lock in' burglar who often gets away with the loot through unguarded fire exit doors.

The Exit Lock approved by the Underwriters' Laboratories and city and state authorities for installation on fire emergency doors, rings a loud alarm bell if it is opened without authority. The authorized persons have special keys enabling them to leave without sounding the alarm bell. The lock can be quickly opened by hitting a strike plate in case of an emergency.

The lock is made of aluminium and bronze and contains the alarm bell, lock and spring mechanism. Some stores in U.S. have already begun to use this device.

As crime keeps mounting up from year to year in U.S. new devices have to be invented to keep the thief at bay.

ANGEL OF DEATH

General Maxwell D. Taylor, Army Chief of Staff, said that the U.S. is developing a missile which will have a range of 1500 miles. The Army proposed to spend a greater part of its money on such unmanned weapons, because the need was for, "a wide span of guided missiles to extend firepower horizontally and vertically."

Already a missile with a range of over 1000 miles has been developed almost to full-scale test standards. Research work on the 1500-mile weapon is being carried out at the Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama. This weapon willl soon be tried over the South Atlantic.

As if there aren't enough weapons of death, we have to add another spectacular one to our long list.

FIGHT AND RUN

The McDonnell F-101 Voodoo of U.S., a big long-range twin-jet fighter aircraft, is reported to have flown faster than 1000 miles an hour.

Those in the know said that it flew faster than 1100 miles an hour at least once and exceeded 1050 miles an hour half a dozen times.

CANADA FLYING UP

Mr. J. Geoffrey Notman, President and General Manager of Canadair, Montreal, said that aeronautics is one of the most important industries in Canada today with 55 plants employing nearly 40,000 workers engaged in manufacturing aircraft or components for them. 12,000 are employed by air lines.

Canada has 500 licensed airports, about 750 commercial and transport planes and more than 1300 private machines. There are nearly 2800 professional pilots and 5000 people who pilot private aircraft. Aircraft and component manufacturers have an annual wage bill of $136,000,000, with a further $47,000,000 being paid out by operators.

And our Hindustan Aircraft Factory manufactures planes that cling to the earth through sheer patriotic love.

KITE FLYING

The U. S. Navy launched 20 giant balloons from Japan on January 17 to fly across the Pacific in the upper atmosphere as part of a research project to

Girls use their eyes to deceive even God. Here is Roopmala in a devotional mood, lotus and all, in "Panna", a romance of olden days.

study Pacific weather conditions.

Each balloon is 40 feet in diameter and carries 400 pounds of equipment. Three radio devices will relay weather information continuously from each balloon while they are in flight.

During World War II, the Japanese launched balloons in Japan and carried incendiary devices to the west coast of U. S. A.

INDEED ?

The National Physical Laboratory of India is working on the prototype of a solar water pump. Called the thermopump, it is designed to work on the same principle as a steam engine but without a piston or a crankshaft.

The alternate vaporisation and condensation of water between two check valves provides the pumping action which recycles itself. To give an even flow to the pumped water, the scientists will use an air cushion. Solar heat will be stored to continue the water flow on cloudy days.

It is estimated that in a normal day of eight hours, solar energy equivalent to four gallons of petrol will be obtained.

LAW IS NEEDED

Bullock carts, especially moving in urban areas in India, may soon be fitted with pneumatic-tyred wheels in place of the present iron tyres.

According to Nehru, "In China the Government has provided rubber tyres for bullock carts. This has made a tremendous difference."

Apart from the fact that the roads will not be damaged, pneumatic-tyred carts will be able to carry heavier loads.

To convert 100,000 such 'public carrier' iron-tyred carts, it will cost at least 5 crores.

That would be money well spent, provided the bullock carts get the pneumatic tyres fixed on them.

A NEW MEASURE

Physicists Drs. William Fretter and E. W. Friesen of the University of California have devised a new method of measuring high energy atomic particles in motion. The research work was done in collaboration with the office of naval research and the Government Atomic Energy Commission.

The method involves passing cosmic rays through a chamber containing a mixture of gas, alcohol and water vapour. This charges the atoms (positive ions). A sudden expansion of the chamber results in a condensation of a tiny water droplet on each ion, marking the path of the particle. By counting the number of water droplets along the track in a photograph, it is possible to determine the speed of each particle and so its energy.

This study can throw more light on the make-up of cosmic rays, the showers of atomic particles from Outer Space.

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Featuring :—SHAKILA ★ MAHIPAL ★ CHANDRASHEKHAR ★ Tiwari ★ Kamal Kapur ★ Roopmala & Maruti

Both Produced by :—SHRI CHIMANLAL TRIVEDI

and music :—S. N. TRIPATHI

Distributors :—

Bengal :—DAGA PICTURES, Calcutta

Delhi U.P. :—(POONAM FILMS LTD.) Through GREAT ARTS LTD. Delhi

C. P. C. I. :—(DEV DANAV) Nagin Pictures, Bhusawal

Nizam :—(DEV DANAV) Shyam Sunder Pictures, Secunderabad

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Tamilnad :—V. PRANLAL & CO., Bangalore City

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(DEV DANAV) V. Pranlal & Co., Secunderabad

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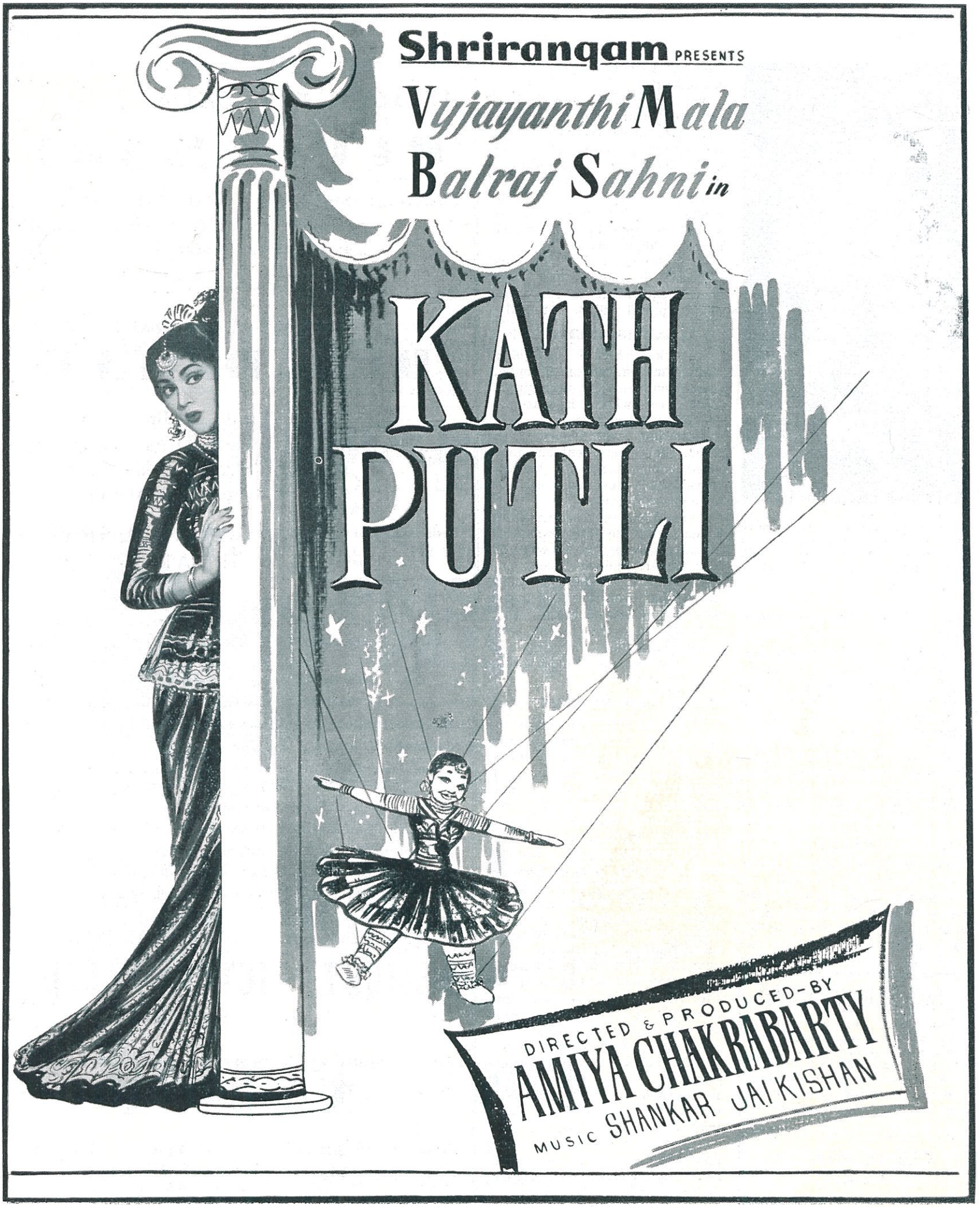
NAJMA

Featuring :—**Madhubala ★ Ajit ★ Narang Smriti Biswas & Bhagwan**



SHRIRANGAM

140, Famous Cine Building, Haines Road, Mahaluxmi, BOMBAY.

When they light up like this they have a good reason standing before them. We are sure Mala Sinha's choice is good in "Paisa Hi Paisa", a social theme directed by Mehrish for Mehboob Productions.

ANOTHER HOPE

New Delhi, February 1.

Planning for the Second Five-Year Plan is already in full swing and expectations are rising high. Recently the Government of India gave its seal of approval to a project put forth by the Ministry of Labour for setting up a film unit with American assistance to produce films relating exclusively to safety and social welfare of workers, vocational training and the working of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme.

About 100 films will be produced in the Second Five-Year Plan on these subjects. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 10.5 lakhs with a recurring expenditure of Rs. 1.5 lakhs.

In England, the British Association for Commercial and Industrial Education produced training films in the past with the help of American Operation Mission.

India is woefully lacking in audio-visual material and these educative films are bound to teach something to the illiterate masses. We welcome this move and hope that the films will be produced from the Indian angle.

WOMAN WITH ITCH

Hollywood, January 25.

Marilyn Monroe's bitter fight with Twentieth Century Fox is over at last. A year ago Marilyn had walked out on her producers disgusted with the silly roles they had cast her in and she refused to work with them unless the role had some dramatic value. She then went to Manhattan and began to learn acting under Director Lee Strasberg at Manhattan Actors' Studio.

As luck would have it, Marilyn's "The Seven Year Itch" became a great success and 20th Century began wooing the seductive actress. Her new seven year contract was signed for $8 million. Marilyn has to do four movies in seven years. She has the right to approve the story, choose her director, choose her role. If she likes, she can work in other pictures outside Twentieth Century Fox, plays or appear on television.

Marilyn's first role in the new contract is that of Cherie, an emptyheaded blonde, from the popular Broadway play "Bus Stop". And that is precisely the type of role she was fed up with once. But then money makes the mare go is an old proved proverb and Marilyn is a mare with a rare itch.

ALI'S NEW SMELLY

Paris, January 28.

Prince Aly Khan has fallen in love for the umpteenth time. This time the playboy's fancy is Parisian mannequin Simone Bodin, 30, popularly known as Bettina. He will marry her as soon as the French court recognizes his Las Vegas divorce from Rita Hayworth as final.

So charming Bettina will soon taste the life of a 'princess'.

SUBSIDISE RADIO CEYLON

New Delhi, January 20.

Under the ambitious Second Five-Year Plan, the broadcasting stations of All India Radio at Bombay, Madras and Tiruchirapalli will be expanded to make them better and more useful to the nation.

The Planning Commission has agreed to the inclusion of certain schemes in this connection in the Second Five-Year Plan. The total estimated expenditure on these projects during the plan period is Rs. 214.8 lakhs, of which Rs. 35.31 lakhs are expected to be incurred during 1956-57.

The largest allocation is for Bombay studios where Rs. 15.01 lakhs will be spent during 1956-57 and Rs. 63 lakhs during the next plan period. The corresponding allocations for Madras and Tiruchirapalli are Rs. 12 lakhs and Rs. 25 lakhs during 1956-57 and Rs. 5 lakhs and Rs. 10.5 lakhs during the next plan period respectively.

Let us hope we get at least good programmes for all the lakhs spent. At the moment, Indian radio listeners seem to thrive only on Radio Ceylon and Radio Goa, which, because they entertain our people and satisfy them, really deserve some provision in our Second Five-Year Plan.

GOOD OLD KERRY

Hollywood, January 25.

Veteran hero of silent days, Norman Kerry, died in Los Angeles of a liver ailment at the age of 63. As the dashing, swashbuckling hero, he played opposite charmers like Lillian Gish and Mary Pickford in the early twenties. His hits include, "The Phantom Of the Opera" and "The Hunchback of Notre Dame".

At one time he worked in the French Foreign Legion under the name of Heinrich van der Kerry of Rotterdam and lived on the Maginot Line. He returned to U. S. in 1941 and lived a quiet life there till his death.

MADE SAFE

Bombay, January 27.

Marathi playwright and producer, P. K. Atre, was arrested by the Bombay police at his residence in Shivaji Park under the Preventive Detention Act on Friday, January 27. Four others connected with the Samyukta Maharashtra campaign, Mr. S. V. Parulekar, Mrs. Godaveri Parulekar, G. D. Paradkar and another, were also arrested on the same day.

The police alleged that the

A gay sailor is a menace to all unattached women of society seeing that sailors leave behind wives in every port. Ashok Kumar also leaves behind some aching hearts in "Inspector", a thrilling tale of love and mystery.

arrested persons openly incited people to violence.

PAY OUT

Bombay, January 16.

The six-month old dispute between Evergreen Pictures and their employees was settled amicably.

The terms of agreement are as follows:—The employer is liable to pay half month's basic salary for each completed year of service on the death of an employee to his heirs or legal representatives. The same gratuity is to be paid by the employer if the employee is unable to continue in service in case of permanent physical or mental disability.

A new Provident Fund Scheme will be started from April 1st for its employees as approved by the Income Tax Commissioner. Every workman who has completed three months' service shall be eligible to become a member of such Fund. The agreement also fixed new scales of pay and dearness allowance for employees and framed rules regarding leave.

NO MORE FISHING

New York, January 18.

American crooner Eddie Fisher, a nobody ten years ago, is proving popular with American audiences. He signed a 15-year exclusive contract with NBC Television Company and a gramophone record firm, which gives Eddie £6000 a year income for the next 15 years.

Eddie Fisher is married to film actress Debbie Reynolds and they are considered to be one of the liveliest couples in Hollywood.

Professions have their faces though a man has only one face. Here is how a watchman is expected to look according to Ashok Kumar in "Inspector", a romantic tale.

ONLY UPPER HALF

London, January 16.

Charming Swedish actress Anita Ekberg, working in Hollywood pictures these days, had a dreadful moment of embarrassment in the crowded foyer of a London hotel when her strapless, well-fitting gown came down owing to a few loose stitches. An eyewitness who saw the incident said, "Under it was just Anita."

Anita naturally rushed to the cloak room saying, "I like tight dresses, but after this, well..."

It seems to be a good publicity stunt though Anita is pretty enough to attract attention without resorting to such aids.

DIANA IN DISTRESS

Hollywood, January 23.

Film actress Diana Barrymore, 34, daughter of the late John Barrymore, announced that she has voluntarily signed herself to spend six months in a psychiatric sanitarium in Westchester, New York.

Said Diana to columnist Earl Wilson: "I drink like a giraffe. Alcoholics Anonymous didn't work for me because I got very bored listening to their stories. They weren't very good actors. I wish I could get rid of these hiccups. When I'am alone I drink, and when I've got friends in, I drink. People who drink—they drink any old when."

Diana has been married thrice and spent some months with Alcoholics Anonymous. Let us hope this self-imposed penance helps the distressed Diana.

INDIAN?

London, January 17.

Metro Goldwyn-Mayer signed a long-term contract with Anna Kashfi, an Indian actress.

Calcutta-born, Anna will make her debut in "The Mountain" opposite Spencer Tracy. We don't know whether she is a Red Indian.

READY FOR ANOTHER

Lahore, January 27.

Popular Pakistani star, Noor Jehan, filed divorce proceedings against Producer-director hubby Syed Shaukat Hussain Rizvi in the court of the local civil judge.

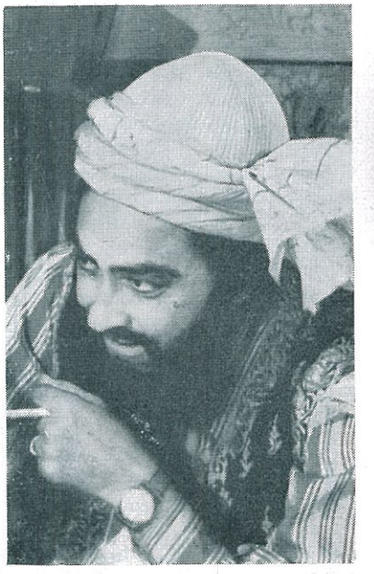
Noor Jehan alleged that she had not been paid maintenance allowance for over two years by her husband. She also accused Rizvi of "mental and physical cruelty".

Now who was supposed to maintain whom ?

ONCE AGAIN

Calcutta, January 26.

The following members were elected to the executive committee of the Bengal Motion Picture Association, Calcutta:—M. D. Chatterji, president; C. B. Desai and S. K. Mukherjee, vice presidents; S. L. Jalan, honorary treasurer; B. N. Sircar, chairman of the producers' section; K. L. Chatterji, chairman of the distributors' section; N. A. Patel, chairman of the exhibitors' section; A. Bose, A. Mukherji, G. B. Roy, S. Mukherji, B. L. Aggarwal, P. K. Chatterji, S. B. Mehta, H. Bannerji, N. C. Nag, A. K. Bhattacharya, S. C. Dutta, R. J. Mehta and D. Pramanick, secretary.



The money lender — the Pathan variety—is a picturesque member of society though not a pleasant one at any time. Ashok Kumar, however, hopes to make him popular in "Inspector", a mystery tale.

PROFITS OF VICE

Hollywood, January 20.

M. G. M.'s profits for the year ending August 31, 1955 were reported to be lower than the previous year. In 1954 it was $6,577,311.

The fall in earnings is due to two colossal flops of M.G.M.

The policeman's face has decision in it—the decision to punish crime. It is a hard, pointed face which scares criminals. Ashok Kumar shows he can do it in "Inspector".

—"The Prodigal" starring Lana Turner and "Jupiter's Darling" starring Esther Williams.

"The Prodigal" cost $3,000,000 and has so far collected $2,200,000 in the U. S. while "Jupiter's Darling" which also cost 3 million dollars collected only $1,500,000 in the U. S.

M. G.M. seems to have started a new career of flops for this year too with pictures like "The Scarlet Coat", "Deep In My Heart", etc.

PAKISTANI PATRIOTISM

Lahore, January 27.

Workers of Shahnoor studios, Lahore, struck work to mark their protest against the employment of Indian technicians in Pakistani studios.

Pakistani actor Santosh Kumar refused an offer to work in a film produced at Shahnoor Studios, this one being the only studio in Lahore engaging Indian technicians.

Workers of Evernew Studios and Malika Studios and Pakistan Cine Laboratory observed a token one-day strike to express their sympathy with the workers of Shahnoor.

The agitation against employment of Indian film technicians is being played up by the Pakistan Film Technicians' Association for the last two months.

Indian film producers don't suffer from patriotism like their Pakistani counterparts and that is why film actor Ishrat of Pakistan is still working in Indian pictures.

APRIL BRIDE

Hollywood, January 27.

Prince Rainier of Monaco has chosen the middle of April to marry Grace Kelly, the talented Hollywood actress.

Rainier told newsreporters that after marriage Grace Kelly had decided to give up film work for good. That means Grace's marriage has a better chance of stability. But the story will be different next year. No Frenchman has yet remained married to an American girl too long.

JANA GANA MANA

Madras, January 20.

The Government of Madras issued a press note saying that 'Jana Gana Mana' was the only Indian National Anthem and that no other song can or should be sung instead as a national anthem. The note also carried the full text of the authorized version of the national anthem.

Recently at several functions of government departments or local bodies, the Tamil song "Vazhia Senthamil" was being sung on the announcement of the national anthem. The press note said that "Vazhia Senthamil" could be only sung as a prayer song at the beginning of a function.

In Bombay at a function held in Shantaram's honour, Lata burst into "Bahu asot sundar sampanna kim maha; Priya amucha ek Maharashtra desh ho" in place of the Indian National Anthem.

It is a shame that after 8 years of independence, quite a few linguistic-stricken people are forgetting their Indian National Anthem because of narrow provincialism.

IN TESTING PERIOD

Hollywood, January 20.

Though everyone in Hollywood expects actor Edmund Purdom to marry Linda Christian, ex-wife of Tyrone Power, Edmund refers to Linda as "my best friend".

But Linda is more optimistic and says, "We plan to be maried when we are clear of legal comlications".

Marriage in Hollywood is mostly a jig-saw puzzle and one can never say how it will end.

In the shadow of every home, there is a Ravan waiting to lift a Seeta and make virtue a difficult profession. Here is pretty Dulari facing the devil in "Zindagi Ke Mele", a social romance produced and directed by K. B. Lall.

OBJECTIONABLE SKITS

Kurnool, January 20.

The Andhra Government has decided to undertake legislation to prohibit dramatic and certain other public performances of an objectionable nature in the State.

A Bill published for this purpose defines objectionable performances as those which are likely to incite violence or to tamper with the loyalty of armed forces and the police or which may promote feelings of enmity between different sections of the people.

The Bill will also apply to performances which deliberately intend to outrage religious feeling of any class or are grossly indecent, scurrilous or intended for blackmail. The Bill provides for a levy of penalty on the organisers as well as the owners of the premises where the prohibited performances are held. Contravention of the order will be punishable with imprisonment for a term extending to three months or a fine up to Rs. 1000 or both. 'Burrakathas' which have nowadays become powerful media for objectionable propaganda have also been included in the Bill.

Madras is ahead of Andhra in this respect. The offenders were gagged with the Dramatic Performances Bill last year.

WASTING MORE

Calcutta, January 22.

Imports of cinematograph films, both raw and exposed, amounted to Rs. 13,300,000 in the first six months of the current fiscal year as compared with Rs. 8,000,000 in the corresponding period of the previous year according to official statistics.

In 1952-53, the value of these imports was Rs. 20,500,000. In the next two years the value of imports fell to Rs. 18,500,000 and Rs. 17,300,000 respectively.

We must find out who is wasting more, the Government or the producers?

MORARJI TO NOTE

Ahmedabad, January 25.

The Collector of Ahmedabad issued an order on January 24, banning playing of music in public entertainment places and hotels except between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. in the whole of Ahmedabad district.

This order is the first of its kind in Bombay state. Ahmedabadis seem to be inordinate music lovers. Their 'love' had therefore to be curbed. Bombay and suburbs badly need a similar order.

THEATRES INCREASING

New York, January 15.

Dr. Guenther Schwartz, general manager of Export Union, Germany, said that in Germany 45,000,000 persons pay 800,000-000 admissions yearly.

In 1948 Germany had 2000 theatres. Now there are 5000 theatres and the 1955 attendance will probably reach the one billion mark.

"LEETLE LEELY"

New York, January 16.

Well-known singer Lily Pons was the guest of honour at a Lily Pons Gala Performance held to celebrate the 25th ann'-versary of her debut at the Metropolitan Opera House on January 3, 1931.

That night she sang Act II from Verdi's "Rigoletto" and the Mad Scene from Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" and the audience cheered her more than ever before.

Petite French-born "Leetle Leely" Pons, the soprano singer, has swayed Metropolitan audiences for the last twenty-five years and is still in demand.

One such gala night had been celebrated in 1909 to mark the 25th anniversary of Marcella Sembrich, a famous Metropolitan singer.

CALLING INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHERS

Kidderminster, January 30.

The well-known Midland Salon of Photography, 1956, will be presented at the Public Library and Art Gallery, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, England, from June 30th to July 28th, 1956, in association with the Kidderminster and District Photographic Society during their jubilee year.

Kidderminster is a small town about 15 miles south west of Birmingham and is known as a centre of the English carpet industry and also as the birthplace of Rowland Hill, the originator of the postage stamp.

Those who wish to submit their entries in time should write for further particulars to the Salon Secretary, the 26th Midland Salon of Photography, Art Gallery, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, England. The last date for entries is June 1, 1956.

Let us hope Indian photographers show their skill in this photographic exhibition.

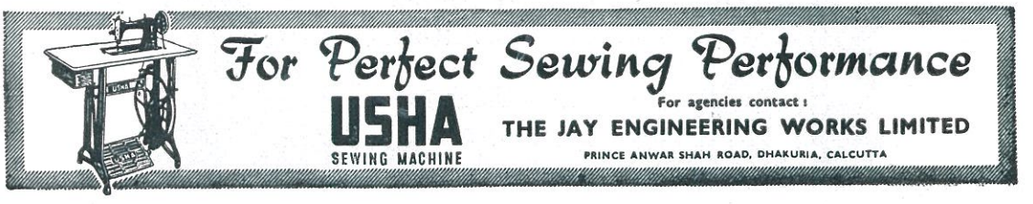
MORE EMOTION

Milan, January 15.

The Italian passion for opera is not a secret. From the days of Mozart and Haydn, Europe had many small opera houses which were later replaced by larger "imperial" or "state" opera houses. One of the most famous is the La Scala at Milan with a capacity of 3200, which was damaged during the World War II but renovated since.

Behind the famous La Scala has now cropped up La Piccola Scala to accommodate the overflow of La Scala having a capacity of 600. This one took five years to construct and cost half a million dollars. The street where the La Piccola Scala stands is known as the Street of Amateur Actors, 'Via dei Filodrammatici' where once upon a time were parked the carriages of the popular prima donnas.

La Piccola Scala was opened to the public and was as crowded as it could be. The Italians have another outlet now to express their love for the opera.



Agents : **M/s. Bombay Premier Trading Co., Bombay.**

HOW COULD HE?

London, January 25.

Sir Alexander Korda who died recently is reported to have left behind a fortune of £2,000,000.

The celebrated film magnate controlled not only London Film Productions, his own production company, but he had many interests as well which earned him a lot of money.

But with high estate duty prevailing in England it is worth knowing how much of that fortune will pass on to his heirs.

GAGGAYA GAGGED

Madras, January 27.

Veteran Telugu stage and screen actor, Vemuri Gaggaya, died at the age of 60.

He made his film debut in East India Pictures' "Sati Savitri" in the role of Yama. His other pictures include "Krishna Leela" and "Draupadi Vastrapaharanam". He was connected with many dramatic troupes, one of them being the Mylavaram Dramatic Company.

SEARCHING FOR KEYS

Hollywood, January 27.

Successful Producer Michael Todd, who is now busy with "Around the World in 80 days", may soon marry blonde actress Evelyn Keyes. The two are often seen together at night clubs and restaurants.

Michael's 'world', however, is moving round Evelyn so closely that we are inclined to believe the rumour of marriage.

PUT OFF

Madras, January 22.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Film Federation of India was held in Madras under the presidentship of Mr. S. S. Vasan.

The meeting was called primarily to ratify certain amendments to the constitution of the Federation as suggested at an earlier meeting in Delhi. The clause in the constitution that any member-association joining the Federation cannot have representation in the executive of the Federation until after six months of joining was deleted. Now the Producers' Guild can have representation in the executive committee of the Federation.

The members also decided to postpone the jubilee celebrations of the Indian "talkie" to a later date "so as to enable the Federation to celebrate it on a very grand scale".

It looks as if today's worry has been snugly put off to tomorrow.

PARADISE OF ISLAM

Lahore, January 20.

A surprise raid conducted in one of the Lahore cinemas after an order passed by the District Magistrate, Lahore, revealed that 169 out of 199 spectators in two higher classes were complimentary ticket holders.

About 75% of the complimentary ticket holders were government officials and their relations.

According to Government regulations, no official is allowed to see pictures on passes nor are the cinema managements permitted to issue complimentary passes to government officials.

It is, therefore, a double offence with both cinemas and government officials winking at each other's crime.

WISH THEM LUCK

Kolhapur, January 17.

The Kolhapur Cine Industrial Cooperative Society will soon launch its own production. Local producers, distributors and cinema operators have offered their cooperation in this venture.

The Society held its meeting on January 16, presided over by Mr. M. D. Shreshty, M.L.A. The Society's plaque was unveiled by Charity Commissioner, Mr. Pradhan.

The Cooperative Society has begun as usual with good intentions. Let us see how it ends.

FILMS KILL

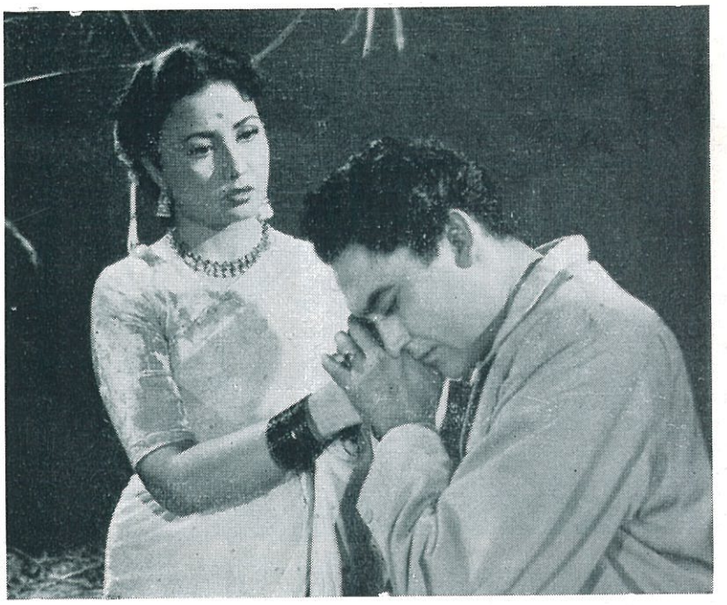
Bombay, January 19.

A fire broke out in the Mahalaxmi Transport Company at 3.30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 18, at Mohamedali Road, enveloping the entire six-storeyed building in flames, burning to death two men sleeping on the pavement and causing serious burns to three babies.

Three storeys of the building housed the Noor Maternity Hospital and before the fire could kill more people, fire engines were rushed to the spot and the inmates of the hospital were moved to safety.

The fire was due to 27 steel trunks of scrap film stored in the ground floor of the building.

Though there have been many fires in Bombay due to careless storing of films, the authorities concerned seem to take things coolly. The culprits must be punished.



When a woman is young there is a healing balm in every part of her body. Ashok Kumar is soothing his red eyes with Meena Kumari's hand and calling it devotion of love in "Shatranj", a romantic tale.

TALL TALK

New Delhi, January 29.

Vice-president Dr. Radhakrishnan will inaugurate on March 25, a drama seminar, organized by the Sangeet Natak Akadami in New Delhi.

The seminar will last for ten days in which actors, playwrights and critics will read and discuss papers on various aspects of the drama.

Bengali playwright, Mr. Sachin Sen Gupta, a member of the general council of the Akadami, will be the director of the seminar.

The Sangeet Natak Akadami is unusually alive when it comes to organizing talking seminars Otherwise it is quiet as a grave.

NOT OLD

New York, January 15.

Famous stage and screen actress Helen Hayes, 55, was honoured at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, by some of Broadway's well-known artistes. The occasion was the 50th anniversary of her first stage appearance.

Helen Hayes listened to all praises with dignity and they

sang to her, "The Way You Look Tonight".

Helen still continues to exude charm inspite of 55 summers.

BLACK SYMPATHY

Moscow, January 20

The first American theatrical troupe with an all-Negro cast proved popular in Russia with its "Porgy and Bess", the famous George Gershwin-Du-Bose Heyward folk opera about poor Negroes in the South. It is strange that the Russians with their traditional love of the ballet took to this opera with jazz but they just seemed to love it, the way they cheered the cast.

Leningrad and Moscow had 25 shows each of "Porgy and Bess" and the top seats were priced at 60 roubles.. Though the U.S. State Department subsidized the troupe during its tour of South America, Europe and the Middle East, it refused to subsidize a trip to the Soviet Union. The Russians then came to their rescue and paid them $150,000. And now, they are reported to have got back $350,000.

Anyway "Porgy and Bess" did help temporarily in creating some badly-needed goodwill between the Soviets and the Yankees.

SNOBBISH HONOUR

London, January 22.

Charming ballerina Margot Fonteyn, who was recently made Dame of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth, added one more feather to her cap at London's Covent Garden.

After dancing her popular "Swan Lake", she came on the stage to make a bow of honour. The distinction of the bow — a solo curtain call — has been awarded only twice in the entire history of Covent Garden— both times to Margot Fonteyn.

PRICE OF CRIME

Hollywood, February 2.

A Hollywood film company is reported to have bought Agatha Christie's play, "Witness For The Prosecution" for 325,000 dollars for picturization.

"Witness For The Prosecution" is a thriller which has been staged on Broadway, New York, and Winter Garden Theatre, London. On Broadway it has so far collected £750,000.

PAGED HIM

Las Vegas, January 22.

Well-known singer Janis Paige married Arthur Stander, producer of her television show "It's Always Jan" at Las Vegas. Janis Paige came into prominence as the star of "The Pajama Game".

Let us hope that in future, for Arthur at least, it will always be Jan.

FOLK DANCING

New Delhi, January 29.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi gave away the Sangeet Natak Akadami running trophy for folk dances to the Bihar team at a function held in New Delhi. The members of the winning team were also awarded a medal each.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi said that the criterion by which the Akadami had judged was that the dances must be without exotic influence. She said dancers should preserve the traditional purity of the folk art. She also wished that the city folk learnt the art of folk dance.

We agree with Indira. Instead of dancing cheek to cheek hulas and rumbas and wasting hours in clubs and restaurants in ballroom dancing, our society folks should take to folk dancing or other forms of indigenous dance, infinitely more graceful and more in keeping with our ancient culture and traditions.

DOESN'T KNOW TRICKS

Hollywood, January 31.

Novelist Herman Wouk, who has risen to fame with the filming of two of his novels "The Caine Mutiny" and "Marjorie Morningstar", is not a happy man in spite of all the money that he earns. His income from book royalties and subsidiary rights from plays and movies is said to be $50,000 a year. But a best-selling author has many obligations apart from paying heavy income tax..

Says Wouk, "During the last year I have been asked to erect a synagogue, finance the publication of a learned work to cost $25,000 and contribute to many other causes ..... people have the wrong idea..... it is almost impossible for a writer, no matter how successful, to amass any riches. Even if I make a million 89 per cent of it goes to the government. Businessmen can devise schemes to keep money, but writers cannot. But I'm not complaining."

Wouk seems to be a good writer but a bad businessman, otherwise there would have been no cause for complaint.

LABOUR PAINS

Bombay, January 31.

Mr. B. J. Diwan, Judge, Bombay City Civil Court, disposed of a notice of motion taken out by Messrs. Filmistan Ltd. to restrain actor Pradeep Kumar from working as an artist for any other person or producer or films except for the plaintiffs on various dates in February 1956 and from time to time in subsequent months.

The plaintiffs alleged that from July 1955 the defendant began to be irregular in his attendance and was hindering the smooth progress of their production.

The defendant alleged that the plaintiffs in spite of several requests had never notified the dates sufficiently in advance so as to enable the defendant to give them the shifts and adjust the shooting days with other producers.

At the hearing of the motion the defendant undertook not to work as an artist with any other person other than the plaintiffs till the suit was heard.

NO TAX ON NO FILMS

Madras, February 2.

The Government of Madras has exempted all shows of films produced for exhibition to children from entertainment tax in the whole of Madras State.

Only those films certified by the Children's Film Society, New Delhi, as suitable for exhibition to children, will be exempted.

But where are the films? Secretary Mahendranath should show us at least one sample so that we can learn to spot a children's film before we go into raptures over the Children's Film Society.

CEYLON LEARNING

Colombo, February 1.

The Ceylon Board of Censors banned Columbia's "Cell 2455 Death Row" in Ceylon.

Written by a convict the film has many scenes of violence in addition to glamourising a criminal.

With Ceylon's crime figures mounting up, the banning of such pictures has become a necessity.

LESS BOTHER

Jodhpur, February 2.

Three cinemas in Jodhpur have been closed down for an indefinite period owing to the shortage of power supply in the city. And these cinemas have no diesel generating sets. They announced that they would not be able to supply electricity between 6 p. m. and 9.30 p. m. because of certain repairs at the power house.

The overworked projectors thus get some compulsory rest for some time.

MARIE SETON IN CALCUTTA

Calcutta, February 1.

At an interesting function presided over by Professor N. K. Sidhanta, Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University, on January 29, the Calcutta Film Society was inaugurated by well-known film critic Miss Marie Seton of the British Film Institute.

Miss Marie Seton said film societies had an important part to play in improving the contents of a film. Britain had 300 film societies with a membership of each ranging from 500 to 2000.

Though the Calcutta Film Society was started in 1947, it functioned for five years and then became dormant. Now that it has been activated, let us hope the Society doesn't die out again.

OUR REVIEW

"Bhagam Bhag", Another Bhagwan Stupidity

Crude, Ugly And Hybrid Trash

"Bhagam Bhag" is another crude, ugly, hybrid, illiterate entertainer from Bhagwan — that pudgy purveyor of rumba-samba-stunts variety of screen entertainment. The picture is 14000 and odd feet of highly concentrated nonsense dripping with stupidity and stiflingly wrapped in complete incoherence. And we honestly wonder if it is humanly possible to cram a motion picture with more nonsense and incoherence than "Bhagam Bhag" contains.

The apology of a yarn one is able to extract from all the mass of incoherence and nonsense seems to have something to do with a coat which is supposed to contain some millions of rupees. From the start everybody in the picture is crazily after that coat. One sinister-looking rich man and his two shady-looking nieces, Smriti and Shashi, are after it, a number of gun-toting gangsters are after it, Bhaggu and Kishore, two unemployed idiots, are after it. The coat keeps on passing from one hand to another, and Bhaggu, Kishore, Smriti and Shashi among others keep on swaying, singing and clowning all through the picture with the ultimate object of grabbing the coat. They get the coat after 14000 feet of celluloid has been devoted to inane chases, crude dances and noisy songs and it is revealed that the coat actually contains a portion of a map of a treasure which the uncle of the two girls had seized after getting one of his brothers murdered and one locked up in the dungeon of some state outside India. The picture ends with the villain punished, Bhaggu and Kishore paired off respectively with Shashi and Smriti, and with the "Mambo Italiano" in Hindi version providing the final excitement to the characters.

It is impossible to describe the mad nonsense one sees on the screen as a story. It looks one long crazy scene lifted from a madhouse and presented on the screen with added madness. It is a picture which drives a sane person nearly mad, though it may provide entertainment to crude, illiterate picturegoers with Bhagwan's crude, unoriginal antics and fast trick fights which once filled Hollywood's silent films.

CRUDE AND UGLY

The production values are crude and ugly, right down from the sets to photography and sound recording. Music sounds just noisy when it is not hybrid or familiar. The less said about the lyrics and the dialogue, the better. The direction is the most idiotic job seen in recent times.

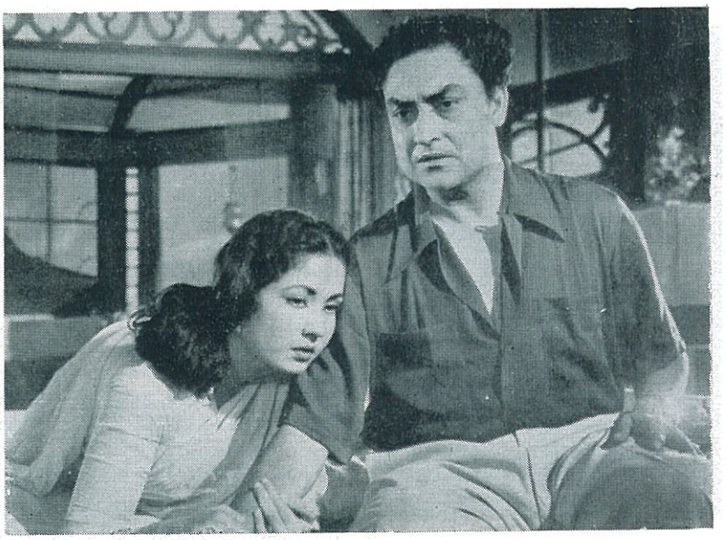
From the players, they all look an exceptionally stupid brigade of idiots, even for a nonsensical farce, and that includes Kishore, Shashikala, Smriti Biswas and Bhagwan.

To put the whole thing in very mild terms, "Bhagam Bhag" is an insufferably idiotic and incoherent picture which considers the spectator to be a congenital idiot. It is time such pictures are banned in the interest of our people and their culture.

BHAGAM BHAG

Producers:	**Bhagwan Bros.**
Language:	**Hindustani**
Story & Screenplay:	**Bhagwan and Brijmohan**
Dialogue:	**Ahsan Razvi**
Lyrics:	**Majrooh Sultanpuri**
Music:	**O. P. Nayyar**
Photography:	**Shanker A. Palav**
Sound:	**C. Modak**
Cast:	**Kishore, Shashikala, Bhagwan, Smriti Biswas, Badri Prasad, etc.**
Released At:	**Imperial, Bombay**
Date of Release:	**3rd February 1956**

Directed By: BHAGWAN



The warrior in a man often dies when a woman holds him like this and doesn't let him go. He then misses the battlefield and dies in bed. Ashok Kumar is all ready for a historic fight but Meena Kumari knows better in "Shatranj", a love tale told in social terms.

OUR REVIEW

"Madh Bhare Nain" Attracts Attention

Good Humour Entertains People

It is gratifying to see that we have a couple of producers in the industry who realize that a picture can be amusing without the presence in it of professional portrayers of absurdity called comedians, and that to make an effective comedy it is not necessary to resort to the asinine antics of Gopes, Johnny Walkers and Om Prakashs.

Following "Bandish", Fortune Films' "Madh Bhare Nain" is the second comedy of situations — and quite an amusing one too — within two months, which is frequent enough on the Indian screen. Although "Madh Bhare Nain" does contain Kishore Kumar, who is more a comedian than a straight actor and who proves to be a rather doubtful choice here, the humour of this picture mostly emanates from the story, situations and the dialogue and not from the usual antics and monkey tricks. And let us pray more producers will try to raise Indian film humour above the level of fat fools, idiotic midgets and colliding tummies.

"Madh Bhare Nain" has a fairly amusing story, a generally smooth screenplay and is quite ably directed resulting in a pleasant comedy on the whole. The story is a simple account of the amusing complications created by a bride-hunt for a youth. Lawyer Ramprasad and his wife Leelavati are a couple in Calcutta constantly and enthusiastically refusing to see eye to eye with each other on most matters. The very day their nephew, Shyam, arrives home from England with some medical degrees, each of the couple has separately seen and appreciated a girl and selected her as the future bride of Shyam.

THE MYSTERIOUS GIRL

Mrs. Ramprasad has seen at a local election a girl acting as a volunteer and dressed in cap and coat like the attendant of a tourist agency and has been immensely impressed by her supposed beauty, smartness, politeness, ability to converse in English and her courage in extracting Mrs. Ramprasad from a violent mob of electioneers. Mrs. Ramprasad does not know the girl's name,

Now her emotions have acquired age and therefore greater meaning. Watch our old favourite, Leela Chitnis in "Basant Bahar".

address or family but she is determined that that girl is going to be Shyam's bride. Ramprasad, on the other hand, has seen his old pal Kedarnath's daughter and has been greatly impressed by her beauty, modesty and religiousness and he in turn is pretty set on making her Shyam's bride. Trying to get their respective choices accepted by the other, the couple start debating and quarrelling and the joke is, both have separately seen and selected the same girl — Malti.

Pestered for his consent Shyam finds himself in a difficult situation between his uncle and his aunt and to avoid displeasing either quietly takes the earliest train to Darjeeling where happen to live his sister and his brother-in-law. On the train Shyam meets a girl to whom he loses his heart instantly deciding to forget all about the respective choices of his uncle and aunt. Only the girl who steals his heart is again Malti, on her way to Darjeeling to stage a charity show with other girls but without the knowledge or permission of her parents.

In Darjeeling begins an interesting romance between Shyam and Malti climaxing in Ramprasad and his wife rushing there to unitedly oppose Shyam's marriage to a girl of his own choice, and the police also, at the instance of Kedarnath, rushing there to trace the missing Malti. The whole thing ends in a police station where the aunt, the uncle and the nephew see Malti for the first time together and find it no more necessary to quarrel and disagree.

WELL DIRECTED

The comedy is pleasant and amusing rather than hilarious. The screenplay sags a bit in the last quarter but generally it provides ample interest. There are some interesting location shots of Darjeeling and it is rare to see an Indian picture exploiting a location so well and effectively. The production values are average. Sets are comparatively realistic and for a change reveal some intelligence. Cameraman Dilip Gupta's photography is generally quite pleasing. Sound recording, however, could have been more careful. The lyrics are nothing to write home about while the music is interesting only in bits. The dialogue contains ample wit and brightness. The direction on the whole is good and effective and has the touches of an old master.

From the players, Bina Rai as Malti is neither effective nor attractive in spite of a good director. Kishore Kumar as Shyam is tolerable but at times he makes the role unnecessarily clownish. With better artistes in the two principal roles this picture could have been much more effective. Badri Prasad and Durga Khote as the quarrelling uncle and aunt are adequate. David as Shyam's brother-in-law is quite delightful while Yashodhara Kathju as Shyam's sister does quite well. From the rest Misra as Ramprasad's clerk is not bad.

In short, "Madh Bhare Nain" is an enjoyable comedy with ample entertainment and can be expected to chase the blues away, if the blues are not too thick and heavy.

MADH BHARE NAIN

Producers:	Fortune Films
Language:	Hindustani
Story:	Sailen Roy
Screenplay:	Benoy Chatterji
Dialogue:	Sarshar Sailani
Lyrics:	Shailendra
Music:	S. D. Burman
Photography:	Dilip Gupta
Sound:	R. S. Pusalkar
Cast:	Bina Rai, Kishore Kumar, David, Yashodhara Kathju, Badri Prasad, Durga Khote, etc.
Released At:	Super, Bombay
Date of Release:	3rd February 1956

Directed By:
HEM CHUNDER

OUR REVIEW

"Tongawali", A good Screen Story

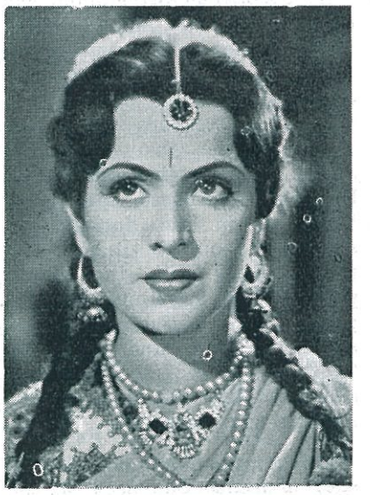
Clumsy Direction Makes Clumsy Picture

Kuldip Pictures' "Tongawali" is a picture worthy of some attention only because of its effective story by Pt. Mukhram Sharma which becomes this writer's another commendable contribution to the screen. It is quite a meaty story which, even though it is not delicious in every bite, provides a good dramatic meal on the whole.

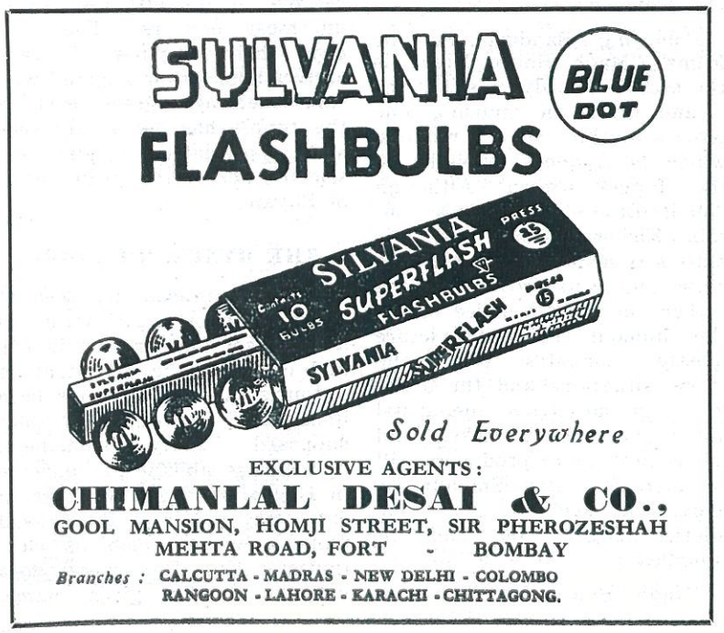
Containing an engaging plot and interesting characterizations the tale has roots in real life and had it had the benefit of intelligent direction, it could have shaped into a useful picture. But the direction is none-too-intelligent and in fact seems to be just good enough to deliver the stuff somehow. And "Tongawali", therefore, just becomes an averagely interesting picture which one shouldn't regret seeing nor regret not seeing it.

A STREET TALE

A fat, unscrupulous grocer and his upright, strong-willed daughter Rajjo while taking a tonga—a horse-carriage in the North—from the Delhi railway station to their home strike acquaintance with Lachhman, the



Cat-eyed dames are dangerous when provoked. Nigar Sultana keeps the home fires burning in "Mastani," an exciting romance.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tonga-driver. Shortly after reaching home Rajjo discovers that she has lost her bundle of ornaments in the tonga. The fat grocer begins to make noise about it but quietens down when late in the evening Lachhman comes to return the bundle. Rajjo rewards the honest tongawala with affectionate looks but her father rewards him by pinching his wallet. Rajjo, however, catches her father's theft and next morning goes to return the wallet to Lachhman. By now Rajjo and Lachhman find themselves quite worthy and willing to wed each other and the wedding soon takes place in spite of the grocer who wanted to use his daughter for earning a dowry and Chhotu, a rascally character with deep designs on Rajjo. Soon after the wedding the grocer dies a deserving death while Chhotu temporarily accepts frustration of his designs.

Rajjo and Lachhman now start a peaceful, contented life together but it is rudely disturbed when Lachhman is stabbed to death while defending a girl from some criminal kidnappers. Rajjo is left a wailing widow with an infant son and the story now proceeds to tell how a woman in Rajjo's circumstances and surroundings tries against heavy odds to lead a chaste and honest life and bring up her son in the image of his virtuous father.

Ratna, the son, grows up to be quite a straight youth, although somewhat moronic, but with the old villain Chhotu still active as Rajjo's bitter enemy, the youth is soon led into bad ways and becomes a drunken, brothel-visiting waster. This proves a bitter shock to Rajjo who decides to disown her son. The climax comes when Rajjo nearly kills Ratna for trying to outrage a woman—a deed to prevent which Ratna's father had sacrificed his life. In the end the badly bleeding Ratna, who it seems needed only a lesson to be stung into his flesh, apologizes pathetically to his mother and the picture ends on a happy note.

AVERAGE PRODUCTION

Mukhram Sharma's story is interesting and his screenplay is quite well-knit and contains many clever touches which cannot be described in a brief synopsis. Rajjo taking the dowry money away with her to teach her greedy father a lesson, securing a court ruling that a woman is entitled to drive a tonga for a living, and Chhotu and another wily character in frustration trying to paint Rajjo as an immoral woman before others, are some of the intelligent touches. But the direction being generally crude and clumsy, the story is only visible, not effectively exploited.

The production values are mediocre. Sets are tolerable. Photography is passable in parts and clumsy in places. Sound recording is erratic. Lyrics are trite and music rather mediocre. The dialogue is generally appropriate but the peculiar accent given to some characters does not always convince and one character in particular is found to employ dialects spoken in such widely different places as Bombay and Saharanpur.

From the players, Nirupa Roy as Rajjo looks quite old even at the beginning but she invests the role with apparent sincerity if not with much talent. Balraj Sahni as Lachhman is tolerable if not convincing. Shammi Kapoor as Ratna looks a fat-faced idiot when unspoilt and

a fat-faced scoundrel when spoilt. There is, however, no visible trace of intelligence behind the portrayal. Jayant as Chhotu gives to the mean villain's role an unnecessary touch of polish and blandness. From the rest, Gope as Rajjo's greedy father is quite crude and loud, while Anita as Ratna's betrothed is quite pleasant though a bit coquettish for the simple role she plays.

In fine, "Tongawali" is a good story clumsily presented. Those who like to appreciate the rare phenomenon of a good story on the Indian screen can risk this picture.

TONGAWALI

Producers: **Kuldip Pictures**
Language: **Hindustani**
Story, Screenplay & Dialogue: **Pt. Mukhram Sharma**
Lyrics: **Prem Dhawan**
Music: **Salil Chaudhury**
Photography: **Ranjodh Thakur**
Sound: **Mohan Dadhich**
Cast: **Nirupa Roy, Balraj Sahni, Shammi Kapoor, Jayant, Gope, Anita, etc.**
Released At: **Krishna, Bombay**
Date of Release: **13th January 1956**

Directed By:
LEKHRAJ BHAKRI

Poverty is tragedy enough without adding beauty to it. Here is beautiful Meena Kumari in the midst of men and poverty in "Shatranj", a social tale featuring Ashok Kumar and Yakub.

OUR REVIEW

"Shahzada", The Most Stupid Tale Of The Year

Crude, Vulgar And Murderously Boring Picture

India Films' "Shahzada" is a hideous abuse of celluloid. It is a picture which is crude, vulgar, stupid and murderously boring. And it would be better to spend a week inside a jail than to spend two hours inside a theatre showing this ugly atrocity.

Intended to be an adventure yarn in costume, the picture contains kings who look like beggars on a holiday, royal villains who look like bootleggers, palaces which look like shabby stalls in a third-rate exhibition, costumes which look like unsold items of an auction sale, and a whole lot of other ugly and awkward sights and an overabundance of stupidity.

THE OLD TALE

There is a king looking about as regal as a Bhoiwada barber and surrounded by the usual scheming cousins one of whom is Khakan, a character who looks like a habitual convict. When the king gets a son, Khakan has it kidnapped with orders that it be killed and gets his nephew Nazim adopted as the heir by the grief-stricken king. But unknown to Khakan, the king's infant son, Aslam, manages to escape murder and soon grows into a man in love with a woman called Rukhsana. Aslam and Rukhsana find their way into the palace and now begin a hideous series of idiotic court intrigues, clowning and romantic episodes. Khakan and the grown up Nazim, being two boorish idiots, manage rather unaccountably to seize the throne for a while but finally both end up as corpses, while Aslam is recognized to be the real heir with Rukhsana as his real love.

ROTTEN ALL ROUND

The production values are rotten. Sets are disgraceful. Photography is ugly. Sound recording is incompetent. Music is unattractive. The dialogue is generally crude and silly and occasionally vulgar. The direction is untouched by intelligence or imagination. It is purely stupid.

From the players, Ajit as the real son of the king looks ugly and awkward when he does not disappear from the screen for long and mysterious but nevertheless welcome intervals. Sheila Ramani as Rukhsana manages to attract some attention below the neck but acting is mostly done with the face which in her case is neither pretty nor expressive. Shivraj as the king looks miserable while Begum Para as the King's adopted daughter looks a fade-out in a sari. Johnny Walker as a clown is more irritating than tickling. From the rest, the two men playing Khakan and Nazim look like two professional hooligans accidentally before the camera.

In short, "Shahzada" is an all round rotten picture. It is a grave risk for exhibitors and worth avoiding scrupulously by picturegoers.

SHAHZADA

Producers: **India Films**
Language: **Urdu**
Story, Screenplay & Dialogue: **Umesh Mathur, Shadab**
Music: **Nashad, S. Mohinder**
Photography: **Himmatlal Patel**
Sound: **Thakersey, N. S. Nair**
Cast: **Ajit, Sheila Ramani, Begum Para, Johnny Walker, Habib, Shivraj, etc.**
Released At: **Capitol, Bombay**
Date of Release: **3rd February 1956**

Directed By:
MOHAN SINHA

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OUR REVIEW

"Kismet Ka Khel" Won't Tickle Kismet

Kishore Sahu Gives Poor Picture

Sahu Films' "Kismet Ka Khel" may be an occasionally tolerable entertainer as screen entertainment generally goes in India, but as a motion picture it is 13000 and odd feet of miserable mediocrity and as a story it is two hours of depressing nonsense.

In this picture Producer-director-writer Kishore Sahu does what most of the illiterate, moronic money-hunters, politely called film producers, generally do in their eager but unintelligent pursuit of profits. He takes an excuse called a story, grabs a current box-office gadget called Vyjayantimala, snatches a fashionable theme called poverty and proceeds to prepare a concoction mixing sex, songs, dances, crime and sociology without caring to provide even the tiniest strand of realism or worrying about the spectator's intelligence. The result is a pitiable pot-boiler, least worthy of a producer claiming to be an honest intellectual.

SLUM STORY

The picture opens with Prakash, a young murder suspect, fleeing from the Bombay police in a manner as if he was a uniformed Allies soldier trying to dodge the Germans in war-time Berlin. In his flight he steals inside a bakery and finds the place stacked with loaves of bread and containing one "double-roti"—a buxom female called Anokhi futilely dressed as a male. And she is also there to steal bread. Prakash begins by doing something impossible, that is mistaking Anokhi's sex, but soon gets the fact right and after a bit of stupid adventure lands at the abode of Anokhi, which is supposed to be an abandoned dockside godown and contains a little slum-world of waifs, beggars and pickpockets as conceived by Mr. Kishore Sahu without apologies to any reality.

Prakash finds a ready shelter in the place and discovers Anokhi to be the head of the slum brigade — a truly strange girl "who does not know who and where her mother is and whose mother herself may not know who her father is". That is how the writer describes her through a character. Prakash now eats the beggars' bread and like an ungrateful Congressman gives them sermons. After a while the beggars show improvement and start taking to honest ways — the chief one being street singing and dancing. When Prakash still insists on playing the preacher, Anokhi angrily asks him to save his own soul and says that she knows him to be a murderer at large. Prakash pleads innocence.

And now it is slowly revealed that Prakash had a girl friend in Kusum Mehta, a girl with very pointed intentions, whose millionaire father had unwillingly died of bullet wounds leaving the circumstantial evidence about his murder pointing to Prakash as the murderer. After hearing this story the slum characters turn into so many amateur detectives, while Anokhi, in love with Prakash and eager to establish his innocence by tracing the real culprit, heads right from the slums to a glamorous stage and then into the drawing room of Sudhakar, the manager of the murdered millionaire. Sudhakar starts with the smart idea of filling her up with liquor and stealing her virtue but in a synthetic and too obvious a scene allows himself to be filled up instead and vomits an easy confession which is recorded on an easily arranged tape recorder. And we know that Sudhakar was the murderer of the millionaire. After that it is all smiles. Prakash escapes the gallows and gets the girl.

DISAPPOINTING DIRECTION

The production values are not bad. Sets are generally serviceable. Photography is quite good. Sound recording is erratic in places. It kills some of the songs. Lyrics are uninspiring and music none-too-lilting. The dialogue is like the story — hollow and gurgling. The direction is disappointingly mediocre.

From the players, Vyjayantimala as Anokhi moves about a lot but acts little. Sunil Dutt as Prakash looks a hopeless proposition as an actor. He makes Zippy faces. Begum Para as Kusum tries to beat Vyjayantimala by jumping into the eye with the help of a pointed brassiere. From the rest, Yashodhara Kathju as a slum character is quite effective while Mukri as another complement is not bad.

In fine, "Kismet Ka Khel" has some tolerably entertaining moments but as a screen story it is quite a bit of nonsense naively presented.

Girls have angles however round they may be and even the most pleasant ones have a few bad angles. And that is why motion pictures need directors who hide bad angles of good girls and call it art. If you want to know what we mean, see the horsy nostrils and mouth which Vyjayantimala presents from a wrong angle in "Kismet-ka-Khel", written, produced and directed by Kishore Sahu.

KISMET KA KHEL

Producers:	Sahu Films
Language:	Hindustani
Story & Screenplay:	Kishore Sahu
Dialogue:	Ramesh Gupta
Lyrics:	Shailendra and Hasrat Jaipuri
Music:	Shanker and Jaikishen
Photography:	K. H. Kapadia
Sound:	M. W. Kale
Cast:	Vyjayantimala, Sunil Dutt, Begum Para, Yashodhara Kathju, Mukri, etc.
Released At:	Naaz, Bombay
Date of Release:	3rd February 1956

Directed By:
KISHORE SAHU

WOES & ECHOES

Rs. 5/- will be paid for every letter published in this section.

Angry? Women look ugly in anger and even mirrors cannot be taken near them when in temper. Something has upset Nalini Jaywant in "Aawaz", a romantic tale produced by Mehboob Productions.

BUT WHO LISTENS

"I have read your very exhaustive and learned leader in your New Year Number of "filmindia". You have done a great service to the country in exposing Soviet Russia in its true colours. The facts and figures given in this article ought to open the eyes of our countrymen to the danger of Communism.

"May I respectfully invite the attention of our Prime Minister to the great harm done by so-called Maharashtrian leaders like Shri N. V. Gadgil, M.P.? This old and frustrated man has done more harm to India and the State of Bombay than the worst of Communists in this country and yet no action has been taken against him by the Government or the Congress High Command. Shri Gadgil uttered the following ominous words on the floor of the House, "If you do not respect the sentiments of the Maharashtrian people, the future of Bombay will be decided in the streets of Bombay". How could a responsible Congress leader and member of Parliament be allowed to spread such poison in the ranks of his Maharashtrian followers and yet be allowed to go scot-free by the Congress High Command? I respectfully urge that even now Government should take salutary proceedings against Shri Gadgil for incitement to murder, arson and looting in the city of Bombay.

"It is all very well for the Bombay Government to go on arresting people for incitement but unless we are prepared to take action even against our greatest leaders who are responsible for such action as Shri Gadgil, no permanent improvement can take place in the political atmosphere now prevailing in the country.

"It is still more sad to see that a man of sterling worth like our able Finance Minister, Shri C. D. Deshmukh, is found in the company of men like Shri Gadgil. Our great Prime Minister has in season and out of season condemned parochialism and provincialism in no uncertain terms and yet a man in the street cannot understand why no salutary action is being taken by him in bringing about complete unity in the country. I respectfully urge again on our great Prime Minister that he should scrap the SRC's report and go back to the conditions that prevailed in the country before this Commission was appointed and let every patriotic man and woman devote himself and herself in bringing about unity in the country and work hard for its industrial development."

INDORE. **Col. Dinanath.**

Ex-Prime Minister of Indore.

BAAP-KI-BETI

"Very recently Shrimati Indira Gandhi paid a visit to Bihar. Now this social reformer-turned-politician gave a sickening performance. At a meeting, while lashing out against want of discipline among students, she animatedly declared, "We were also students at one time, but we were never indisciplined; we never begged for passes because we had self-respect and considered it beneath our dignity to ask for it." Now it does not stand to my reason how asking for legitimate passes or concession could be beneath one's dignity. The average Indian is not born with a silver spoon in his mouth, as was the case with the daughter of our revered Prime Minister.

"Indira Gandhi also deplored that certain activities of the Bihar students had lowered the prestige of the State.. (This had a reference to the mid-August disturbances in Bihar). It was her chosen view that during British days students were subjected to all sorts of injustices but they were never indisciplined.

"Born and bred as Indira Gandhi in a family noted for its liberal traditions, the above utterance is most unbecoming. Surely it assumes, above all, the character of a tongue-in-cheek assertion. Our visitor from Delhi talking through her hat forgets conveniently that no educational institution was ever subjected to bullet-treatment in the days of the alien rule. Will she show a single instance of assault upon a Red Cross worker operating even in the battle-field, as had been done here at Patna? Her soap-box oratory merely proves that she is very much anxious to tread in the footsteps of her illustrious father. We don't know where she will end but this much must be said that aping her father cannot be a successful proposition placed as she is on an entirely different footing."

ARRAH. **Prem Chandra Sinha.**

HIRAY-SHANTARAM AXIS

"To what absurdly ludicrous lengths officialdom could go was amply demonstrated recently by the Government of Bombay when they exempted "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje" from the provisions of Entertainment Tax for youngsters under 18.

"Actually, the picture should have been taboo for kids in their teens. It had everything to keep the raw minds away from it. A glaring instance of rank provincialism —that's what it is: a Maharashtrian Minister going far out of his way to give a lift to a Maharashtrian producer.

"No such encouragement has ever been shown before—not even to pictures that cried aloud for recognition and were really deserving cases. Take, for instance, "Jagriti"—a picture of the kids, for the kids, if ever there was one; "Do Bigha

Zamin"—a genuine patriotic theme; "Baiju Bawra"—a saga of classical music.

"What had "Jhanak Jhanak" in it to merit exclusive treatment? No theme—no moral—no message or lesson for the rising generation. And it has not the distinction of being even the maiden colour picture produced in this country.

"All "Jhanak Jhanak" can truthfully boast of is sex in all its crude nakedness. The producer has drawn generously on hips and legs to exploit the beast in man: there is nothing but voluptuous demi-nude dances by Parvati and Menaka and others to give an eyeful of curves and curls to the audiences for their money. Care has been taken to clad these dancers in skin-colour brassieres to add to the effect—of nudity. The arm-pits are fully exposed as are the rest of the limbs all over. "Jhanak Jhanak" out-Hollywoods Hollywood: not even their worst sex pictures can beat Shantaram's exploitation of Eve's anatomy.

"What Shri B. S. Hiray, the Revenue Minister, saw of educational or cultural value in this saga of dances by meagrely-clothed men and women to make him invite youngsters to go and feast their eyes on nudity must be his secret. A Congress moralist like him, too!

"There is nothing inspiring or out of the ordinary in the dances, either—little to write home about. Such Kathak performances are being given by scores of men and women all over the land—every minute of the day. Nothing original about any of the numerous dance numbers—nothing which can even remotely resemble, what's known as, artistic creation. The only distinction they can claim is the added charm of colour—that, too, not with full honours; and, of course, the exposed anatomy of the dancers, particularly the female species—this in full measure!

"Is this a foretaste of Samyukta Maharashtra—this favouritism by a Maharashtrian Minister towards a Maharashtrian producer?

"One wonders.

"And one shudders."

BOMBAY. **Tej Bahadur.**

"DIVINE" NEHRU

"The story goes that when Kalinga was about to be invaded by Ashoka and frightened people went to a Hindu preceptor to consult him about the outcome, he told them that though terrible sufferings were in store for them, the war would ultimately benefit both the kingdoms as well as the cause of humanity. His foretelling proved correct for everyone knows how Ashoka abjured war after conquering Kalinga, brought about perfect toleration between the two conflicting Vedic and Buddhistic faiths, established peace in India and spread the message of the Enlightened One in all directions. If we should look for disguised blessings in curses and should be optimistic enough to hope to profit by mistakes, the recent unfortunate happenings all over the country may help to open the eyes of Nehru and put him on the correct path just as the horrible Kalinga war did in the case of Ashoka, whom our Prime Minister is tirelessly trying to emulate.

"Ever since independence, we have been suffering from a grave national malady called internationalism. Nehru has all these years been preoccupied with the problems in distant lands to the detriment of those at home. He has unnecessarily meddled with the internal affairs of other countries and involved our own in many disputes with which we had no concern. In a few cases, as in Korea, he might have succeeded in helping to restore peace though at enormous expenditure of time and money which could better have been devoted to the solution of our own ills. Lately, the principles of peace and Panchsheela have been preached ad nauseam and our prestige has been proclaimed as having been raised everywhere abroad. Nehru's proud assertion in a speech that "Hamari abroo ghair mulkon men kafi badh chuki

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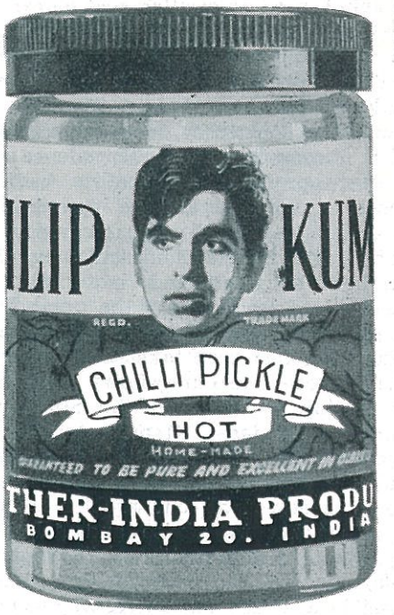

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hai" is an index of the attitude and mental make-up of our Prime Minister. Our secularity, democracy, love of peace coupled with uncompromising independence and, of course, our dynamic neutrality have been boosted to the skies and the impression created, at least in foreign countries, that India's face has been miraculously changed, both spiritually and materially, under the inspired leadership of the great Nehru. A good deal of the space in our papers and periodicals has been taken up by the eulogies bestowed on our country and its man of destiny by visitors from all over the world. Our plans and projects have been publicised far and wide and the country and the world given to understand that we have solved all our problems and are in a position to advise and help other nations in many matters. In short, the Nehru legend has been fostered in every possible way and his universal popularity, his fearless independence and his administrative capacity have received more than adequate acknowledgement and acclaim.

"No wonder the Congress Party, under the spell of the omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient demi-god Nehru has fallen into a criminal complacency and become arrogant and intolerant. It has begun to pride and compliment itself on its ability and maturity and to freely criticise and ridicule other nations and governments for being reactionary, narrow-minded, not-fully-free and the like in contrast with us, who have a progressive constitution and democratic way of life and, most important of all, are blessed with a Prime Minister without a peer in the whole world. It is really unfortunate that millions of our countrymen have fallen into this suicidal complacency and this false sense of security and satisfaction. No doubt the illusive peace, unity and progress achieved in the country during the last few years has helped the growth of this belief. But the operation of the powerful disintegrating tendencies taking shape of linguistic and factional fights and resulting in the loss of the sense of security and danger to life and limb, the active existence of the ubiquitous internal foe (who, by a strange irony, is our favourite friend abroad) whom we had regarded as almost dead, may, by administering a rude shock to the country, its people and their trusted leader, help to restore sanity to some extent and prove a blessing in disguise like the Kalinga war. What is the sense in our much-vaunted secularity if, for the first time in decades, different Hindu communities should be warring with one another in the open and on a mass scale? What is the use of independence if we think of ourselves as Maharashtrians, Gujaratis, Bengalis, Punjabis, Andhras, etc. first and as Indians afterwards? Where will be our over-estimated plans and constructions if, on the other side, they are to be destroyed as quickly? What are our small achievements in comparison with our huge blunders and shortcomings? What is our talk of peace and Panchsheela worth if we fight among ourselves like dogs in spite of Nehru and his Government? Will not the other nations, whom Nehru is so anxious to impress, feel like telling Panditji, "Physician, heal thyself"?

"If he indulges in a bit of searching introspection and retrospection, Nehru will surely realise how costly to his country has been his chasing of the phantom of personal and national glory in the international sphere. Where is the greatness in increasing our "abroo" abroad if the country and its people remain rotten to the core, as poor and miserable as ever? Nehru has begun at the wrong end in his efforts to achieve the noble ideal of "making India great in the eyes of the world". That will automatically follow if we raise our stature from within. And this is what Nehru can and should do.

"Nehru should read editorials in "filmindia"."

BOMBAY. **B. Subba Rao.**

THEY SUBSCRIBE

"Your excellent editorial "Unholy Wedlock" must have evoked a deluge of letters to you, I believe, because you have said what many of us have been thinking all the time while the Red leaders were here. Not all persons — specially those who have been in the know of realities about Russia — have been free of mental reservations about the possible repercussions that would follow "Uncle" Nicky's visit. But in a Delhi whose political climate is determined by all those whims of Mr. Nehru that pass for our foreign policy, any adverse thoughts regarding the visit was a cry in wilderness. To such persons as above, and it includes me, your editorial has been particularly welcome.

"Nikita and Nikolai have come and gone — but more important than their visit has been the legacy of cold-war statements they have left, which are as distasteful to us as to our Western friends. It would be interesting to send a copy of January's "filmindia" addressed to Kremlin, Moscow to tell 'em what we think about it all."

NEW DELHI. **Indra Mohan Sahai.**

TRUTH PREVAILS

"Bravo for your January leader! Many people have been very smug about the Russian leaders' visit. Will their faces be red when they read the comprehensive account of the trigger-happy, deceitful Communists in the "filmindia"? Incidentally you have been the first among the Indian journalists to come out with what should be the correct perspective to look at the whole situation. The rest of the press guys, for all their pious platitudes, have either no independent opinions or no courage to state facts with the proper context.

Motion picture producers will make women do anything to remove a few annas from the pockets of the stupid filmgoers. Here are Chitra and Kamal playing with instruments which don't belong to them in "Basre-ki-Hoor", an Arab romance.

"Your editorial might induce the Russian and satellite envoys in Delhi to come out with a full cry of protest. It also might possibly give one more excuse for Bombay's Commissioner of Police to tilt lances at you. But you can rest assured by the fact that what you have written is nothing but the truth.

NEW DELHI. **Anil Sahai.**

YOU THINK SO?

"Your clear, candid and cogent editorial "Unholy Wedlock" in the January issue of "filmindia", is very timely to warn the nation of impending danger from the monster of Communism. Your masterly review of the various facets of the Soviet's ideologies of proletarian intolerance and political assassination is praiseworthy, and your capacity to put two and two together, and your perspicacity in reading between the lines, is laudable and your timely warnings to the nation of its impending dangers from time to time have always stood the nation in good stead. Your profound insight into the various things happening around and your masterly analysis of the pros and cons of the visit of Nehru to Russia and the return visit of the Russian Prime Minister to India, has clearly pictured the present situation and it will categorically save the nation from becoming a prey to Communism, and it would be no exaggeration to say that democracy will take firm roots in this soil by the sheer force of your convincing and cogent article."

HANAMKONDA. **A. Narsiah.**

UNINTELLIGENT AWARD

"Of all the pictures of the year 1954 our President's plaudits fell on "Mirza Ghalib". The picture was doubly recognized as the prize picture of the year and was awarded the gold and silver medals of the President.

"The mere fact that the picture mainly revolves round a renowned man of letters is no justification of the choice, nor does the fact that it is the product of a producer who has to his credit some historical hits produced in the past provide a plea for this governmental gesture. In the words of the President himself, "the government wanted films which could help in the national uplift". Further according to the President, "those engaged in the film industry had a responsibility to see that the great medium of education and entertainment that they had in their hands was used in the best interests of the people and the country."

"Unfortunately it is not clear to us how "Mirza Ghalib" has helped in the national uplift and how by its production the great medium of education and entertainment has been used in the best interests of our people and the country.

"Even our Prime Minister says, "By and large the pervasive influence of films is very great. It is not only pervasive but also widespread. Its influence may not be as deep as those of books....." On subjects like Ghalib and Shankaracharya, etc., people generally do not read books and it is often through films only that they acquire any detailed knowledge about these writers and great men of the past, or else they just do without it. And when pictures dealing with these subjects present distorted history and concocted biography punctuated with slanderous stories and scandalous episodes, surely they neither help in the national uplift nor can they be in the best interests of the people and the country.

"The Government should realize that they too, on their own part, have the responsibility of selecting right pictures for national awards and thus recommending them to the public. And this they should do when their choice picture actually contributes to the national uplift and is really in the best interests of our people and the country.

"Should not the Government's choice also be in the best interests of the people and the country?"

NEW DELHI. **B. M. Malhotra.**

INFERIORITY COMPLEX

"Did the King of Saudi Arabia come to India to "safeguard" the position of Muslims in this land? At the banquet at the Hyderabad House he is reported to have said that he was "pleased to note that the Government of Bharat was doing justice to the Bharatiya Muslims". To the Indo-Arab Society he is reported to have said that "I desire to say to my Muslim brethren all over the world with satisfaction that the fate of the Indian Muslims is in safe hands.....To the wise President from whose lips I got these **repeated assurances,** I desire to express my cordial thanks." Then comes a message from Bombay dated 13-12-1955 which reads, "Saudi Arabia applauded efforts made by the Government of India to give equal respect and protection for all religious communities in India...."

"If these reports are true, may we know why and under what authority did the King demand the "assurances" and why did the President go out of his way to issue such assurances, and **repeatedly?** It is a matter of great shame and regret that in spite of the Pandit and Maulana we should be suspected of not giving a fair deal to Muslims by persons who have no right to suspect us and that we should be called upon to satisfy such people of our bonafides. If on the other hand all this was "procured" in order to beget Muslim nationalism, it is a matter of still greater shame and regret!

"And on the top of all that, what is most surprising is this, that Pandit Nehru has made liberal use of this "certificate" in his speeches in the South."

GAYA. **Rajeshwari Prasad.**

HIS RED FLIRTATION

"What made the secular Nehru become the sentimental Nehru in giving such a tumultuous welcome to the Russian leaders? Does he think that some good will come out of their visit to India? If so, let him read the thought-provoking editorial captioned "Unholy Wedlock" in the January 1956 issue of "filmindia" and understand what the intelligentsia of the country has to say about the visit of the Russian leaders and Nehru's description of the event as an "epoch making event". If even after going through this stimulating and matter-of-fact article, he has any doubt in his mind, well, then we can only acclaim "May God save Nehru and India"!"

SECUNDERABAD. **A. V. Narasimhan.**

"TIMES" REVIEW?

"Having been a reader of "filmindia" for years I have got into the habit of sometimes depending upon reviews for choosing my film fare.

"But "filmindia" being a monthly cannot offer a weekly guide to its readers and so one is often left with no choice except to rely on the reviews of daily papers.

"Recently I went to see "Pyase Nain" at the local Kamal, goaded by the avalanche of superlatives showered upon it by the film reviewer of the "Times of India". Never did I feel so cheated as while seeing this atrocious tear-jerker.

"I cursed the "Times" critic a hundred times for so grossly misleading one through his review of "Pyase Nain", which I think, is a blot on the reputation of a leading and widely-read newspaper like the "Times of India".

"You can well imagine my repentance on reading in the December issue of "filmindia" the classic heading: " 'Pyase Nain' Beats Even The Projector! Trash That Kills All Desire For Entertainment!"

"What a pity some of our so-called film critics of daily newspapers never had their training under Baburao Patel!"

BOMBAY. **Miss Vasant V. Merchant.**

IT HITS, EH?

"During the long period of over two decades of your association with the Indian film industry, did you ever see a film with 40 songs in it? If not, please fly to Secunderabad and see the film (Telugu) "Sri Krishna Thulabharam". It has 40 songs in it and each one of them a hit, mind you! Even the soundest of sleepers, nay, even Kumbhakarna, cannot sleep through the picture as the clever producer, anticipating this contingency, has contrived to put in a song at an interval of every 2 or 3 minutes. Even the most musical minded will get nausea at the very mention of the word "music". To add to this, the picture runs into 18 reels, as if one reel is not enough to make one's head reel. Indeed, the picture is a veritable musical hit!"

SECUNDERABAD. **A. V. Narasimhan.**

Hanuman, the god of all strong-minded bachelors, grants many a boon but we cannot imagine what Purnima wants from him in "Panna".

INSURANCE RACKET

"The day you took up the cause of Insurance in India and relentlessly and mercilessly exposed the malpractices freely indulged in with impunity by many of the Insurance Companies, I knew the day when Government would take over the business was not far off. As such the announcement of nationalisation of insurance business has not surprised me in the least and indeed it has not come a day too soon. This is yet one more instance to show how "filmindia" has successfully moulded Government policy in the best interests of the country.

"Therefore my earnest prayer is that He may spare you for many more years as the country is in dire need now, more than ever, of men who can place service above self."

SECUNDERABAD. **A. V. Narasimhan.**

WARNED, EH?

"Ever since Adam ate the fruit, man has been struggling to know more and more about the hidden secrets of God and His forces that control animate and inanimate objects of this hatred-ridden universe with the result that laboratory science has given birth to Atom and Hydrogen devils presumably for use by our doubtful guests Bulganin and Khrushchev (Crookshave) during the third world war, though the energy locked in atoms can be used for domestic consumption. I have heard of prophets, but I am living to see a successful prophet in you, Mr. Patel. That your prophetic editorial, "Unholy Wedlock" ("filmindia", January 1956) is nothing but a warning emanating from your deep study of history to the self-styled architect of peace, Nehru (who forgot history though he wrote a book on history called "The Glimpses of World History") against flirting with Communism.

"You are further supported by the world famous Russian astrologer, E. H. Troinski who writes in his "World's Year of Destiny 1959":—

"In the year 1933 the tertiary directional Sun in the state horoscope of the German Republic of November 9, 1918 (overthrow of the Hohenzollern monarchy) conjuncted for the first time the tertiary directional Mars near the dreaded fixed star Algol in Gorgon's head constellation Perseus (configuration in May 1919). Sun conjunct Mars conjunct Algol square Saturn! In 1933 Adolf Hitler took over power in Germany, became head of the state in 1934, introduced in 1936 general compulsory military service, occupied in 1936 the demilitarized Rhineland-zone, marched into Austria in 1938, occupied Czechoslovakia in 1939 and "started" world war No. 2 in the same year. In the Soviet state horoscope of Nov. 7, 1917 (overthrow of the Kerenskij government) the tertiary directional Sun will likewise conjunct for the first time the tertiary dir-

Little Nimmi always looks a big woman in love because her heart has a mother's stature. She can love and nurse at once. Meet her with Bharat Bhushan in "Basant Bahar", produced by Shri Vishwabharati Films.

ectional Mars near the dreaded fixed star Algol in Gorgon's head, Constellation Perseus, in 1959 (configuration of May 1919). Sun conjunct Mars conjunct Algol square Saturn! **What the year 1933 has been for Germany and the world — the year 1959 is likely to be for Soviet Russia and the entire world!** So as Germany after 1933 became the alarming military world centre and finally the cause for the second world war, so Soviet Russia from 1959 on is likely to become the alarming military world centre and the cause of world-wide events which possibly even might lead to the third world war."

CALCUTTA. **Ebenezer S. Soans.**

LAD'S JOB, NOT KESKAR'S

"'Bharat Darshan' (Vision of India)—a Gevacolor film with 9,666 foot, shot by fourteen cine cameramen of the Government of India can rightly be described as one of the few best documentaries ever produced in the country. And this is all due to "filmindia". Yes, due to "filmindia"!

"It was "filmindia" (Sepember 1955 number), who first of all brought to the notice of Dr. Keskar, our Minister of Information and Broadcasting that it was unwise on the part of the authorities concerned that only one newsreel cameraman was sent to cover Prime Minister Pandit Nehru's U.S.S.R. tour, which Russia alone required 29 newsreel cameramen to cover. It was always in the realm of possibility that the single cameraman could have met with an accident or fallen ill. Were we in that event expected to lose the record of Pandit Nehru's historic tour of Russia?

"Who says Dr. Keskar does not read "filmindia"? He definitely read at least the aforesaid September number. And that is why this time he engaged fourteen cine cameramen to film the memorable visit of the Soviet leaders, Mr. Bulganin and Mr. Khrushchev, in India toward the end of the last year."

CALCUTTA. **J. L. Kholbheteria.**

FAVOURITE BUSTS

"Producers should get female artistes' breasts cast in plaster before they are asked to do any running in order to ensure complete non-movement of the bust". This is a sure and serious suggestion sounded by Judas while dealing with "The Censors and the Bouncing Twins" (August 1955 issue of "filmindia").

"Did Shantaram by any accident follow this advice? How else can we understand the apparent favouritism of our Censors to the appealing apparel and actions of Menaka in "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje"? Indeed the bandaged busts must have secured the stamp of the Censors. But they seem to have been seduced by the 'Master Craftsman' who has been crafty enough to cram a few hundred feet of colourful celluloid with close-up clicks of other secondary parts. How, those who insist on cast-in-plaster busts and pasted-to-the-skin odhnis could have allowed themselves to be seduced to see and survive the camera lingering longingly and licentiously on feminine parts which are legitimately the 'delight of Depil', is beyond my comprehension. By any chance, is this a sign of a change? Or are the Censors colour-blind?

"This is meant not so much to imply a criticism of the 'Master Craftsman' as to indicate the whims and policies (or is it partiality?) of the Central Board of Film Censors."

MADRAS. **K. Subrayan.**

KESKAR DADA'S STUNT

"It is surprising to find that apart from making any improvements in their newsreels, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, whenever it makes a change it is for the worse. Take for instance, the recent practice of giving commentaries when some prominent personality is delivering a speech. It gets on one's nerve when to see on the screen a man like Dr. Radhakrishnan or Dr. Bhabha speaking as Chairman of the Atom For Peace Conference, but hear only the jarring words of the Hindi commentator. Why not let the filmgoers enjoy the speakers' own voices and words? And when the Russian leaders during their tour spoke in Russian their speeches which hardly anyone understood were retained as they were. Does it sound reasonable?"

BHAVNAGAR. **Dr. C. N. Wadia.**

KICK IN THE EYE

"Recently twenty-two young Indian women were touring various centres playing exhibition football matches which, I believe, were drawing big crowds.

"There are many games our women can take part in but certainly not soccer which is exclusively a men's game. Women playing football is an unimaginable farce as they can never play this game as it should be played. Does it look graceful for women to run and jump about, to kick the ball, head it and do what not before a large gathering of men who go there to witness anything but football? Above all places such a thing happening in India is indeed shocking. Would you call this a sport, sir?"

BANGALORE. **J. B. William.**

MILADY'S FROWN

"Crores of the much needed rupees are going down the drain on the imports of luxury goods from abroad. Cosmetics and toilet articles particularly, which are now manufactured in India, should not be allowed to be imported. Whatever may be the quality of the indigenous stuff, a blanket ban on the imports of such articles, save for the essential raw materials not available locally, will result in an appreciable saving of foreign currency, specially the hard one.

"We have embarked on an ambitious Five-Year Plan and it would only be in the

fitness of things to tap every possible source for money. Apart from any other consideration, one may safely assert that the quality of Indian cosmetics, specially in recent years, has been improved very considerably, and a further impetus in the shape of a ban on the imports of such articles is sure to result in still further improvement. An expansion of the Indian industry will also mean additional employment for some of our numerous employment-hungry men and women."

BOMBAY. **M. S. Lulla.**

CORRUPT POLICE

"Have you seen how prominently the exhibitors put the sign "For Adults Only" on publicity posters of a picture which our Censors do not want to be shown to the children of the nation? It is not patriotism that makes them do so. They do it because they make brisk business out of this. The authorities do not seem to care because no check is placed on the gates of the cinema. Young people, indirectly encouraged to see the "A" marked films, throng the cinema gates and the very object of the Censor Board is defeated.

"Similar is the case with the order prohibiting smoking in the cinema halls which can be seen being observed in breach at many cinema halls of Old Delhi and Agra. You can find some people laughing with a puff at their cigarettes when the slide reading 'smoking in the hall is a legal offence' is shown.

"Is it right Mr. Patel to make good laws and not enforce them? What is a law if means are not provided to preserve its sanctity?"

PILANI. **S. Kumar.**

NEHRU'S PERSONAL PAL

"If we peruse the Republic Day Awards made by the President we would see that Tendulkar once again has missed the award. These awards made year after year can never show the selectors in a favourable light if they callously ignore persons who richly deserve these coveted honours. I have every reason to feel that a belief that these highest awards of the nation are not inspired by a genuine desire to do honour to illustrious men in different and varied spheres of life might gain currency if sufficient discretion is not exercised in the matter. Surely the selectors' own prejudices and predilections should not come in the way of objectivity that must needs be the hall-mark of these awards.

"The lone example of Tendulkar will drive home the truth. His monumental work "Mahatma" has been unreservedly hailed from all quarters. With the presentation of "Mahatma" in different countries on diplomatic level, this epic work has very much assumed the role of a

When the romance is located in Basra, a woman can be dressed in almost anything when not merely in skin. See what Chitra is about in "Basre-ki-Hoor", an Arab tale of love.

purveyor of our culture and civilization unmistakably personified in that great savant, Mahatma Gandhi. Yet no awards for this unassuming Tendulkar who, unlike the Congressmen, has his own way of working silently without any fuss around him. Of course, Tendulkar himself must not be very sanguine about bagging such awards, for he after all knows that he lives in Nehru's India, which is nothing if not a land of curious contradictions and paradoxes."

ARRAH. **Prem Chandra Sinha.**

KESKAR'S MUSIC

"In the December issue of "filmindia", I read with great pleasure an article about "Nehru's Little Balakrishna". And I was sorry to note what that stubborn little fool has done to our infant industry of radio manufacturing. I think that after a day's hard work one has little patience to sit before a radio and hear our Congress leader's speech or a talk by so and so on a subject like "Elephant and its habits". If you come to our place, you can hear only Radio Ceylon from 95% of the houses owning radio sets including our Town Hall and Government Hospital, even between 6-45 p.m. and 7 p.m. when Christianity is preached from the commercial broadcasting station! I think I will be the first man to give away my radio set to someone in case the Radio Ceylon stops functioning. I do not say that all the film music is pleasant to hear, but 25% of it is simply enchanting. Is Mr. Keskar able to give us a single classical song which is as good as any one of the songs in "Azaad", which was produced by your friend Mr. Naidu?"

MERCARA. **P. R. Damodar.**

WITH YOU

"Judas has once again pinpointed an unfair hardship the film producers in India are undergoing in the matter of recording machines of a particular make. At the same time he has made a valuable suggestion for saving the hard-to-come-by hard currency. A score of film magazines have been making their appearance in India over the last two decades and it is extremely surprising that none of them ever took up a genuine and troublesome problem like the one Judas has so ably handled with facts and figures in the January issue.

"The sorry state of affairs in this behalf once again brings into bold prominence the utter lack of technical knowledge among most of the studios owners in our country. The Government of India have launched a chain of national laboratories to keep the country abreast of the latest technical advances in the various fields of science. The textile industry and the oil interests have their own research laboratories. The idea of having a research laboratory for the technical side of film production, preferably in Bombay, deserves to be thoroughly examined. The industry and the Government would do well to put their heads together with a view to setting up such a research centre. What is your opinion?"

BOMBAY. **M. S. Lulla.**

SHOUT LOUDLY

" 'Unholy Wedlock' is in all conscience, a bumper editorial from your pen which I am prone to consider as a New Year gift to your readers. Duping the innocent and gullible people with the mighty dope of Communism has become a subtle art which we must be guarded against if we are to be true to our grain. It surely needed Baburao's powerful voice to tell us that Messrs. Bulganin and Khrushchev symbolise the cult of bullets and bayonets with which we can have no truck, essentially Indians as we are. Hypocritical smiles on the chubby faces of our distinguished guests were more than mere innocent smiles. The prevailing temper, as can be readily found, among our journals is one of unqualified support to Indo-Soviet accord. But then our dear "filmindia" was there round the corner to debunk the whole humbug.

"Our hearts go out to you in sheer admiration for your signal service to our cause—the cause of freedom and democracy. Incidentally, we marvel at your pooling together of so much of concretive information concerning the proverbial Iron Curtain. We then feel like shouting at the top of our voice—'Only a Baburao could have done that.' "

ARRAH. **Prem Chandra Sinha.**

When a woman has her own strings vibrating inside and playing a tragic tune, she hardly has any ear left to pick up the notes from a musical instrument. Nimmi is in emotional trouble in "Basant Bahar", a musical romance.

LOVE'S LABOUR LOST

"Your editorial, "Midsummer Madness", in the December issue has not only proved that you are above all narrow provincial patriotism, but has convincingly put forward the case for a bilingual Bombay State with Bombay City as capital, as recommended by the States Reorganisation Commission.

"It is ironical but nothing unexpected that the ubiquitous and ever-willing Communist agitators should have given an economic twist to the whole dispute which they are clearly exploiting to further their own political ends. But while the linking up of Communism with communalism is deplorable, it is heartening to find Maharashtrians like you who have shown real breadth of mind and national outlook in a matter where linguistic and provincial sentiments are easily swayed and reason and commonsense lost.

"Let me say that this has exhibited you in a most patriotic light, speaking volumes for your impartiality and non-sectarianism. Even I was afraid, in spite of knowing you so long and so well, that the blood of your provincialism would prove thicker than the water of your patriotism. Finally, I want to make it clear, lest my Maharashtrian friends misunderstand me, that I have full sympathy for their cause on sentimental grounds but I wish all Indians placed the interests of the country above provincial and linguistic attachments, however strong and natural, and considered themselves Indians first and Indians last, as you have done. But patriotism, unfortunately, seems to have been one of the casualties of our independence."

BOMBAY. **S. R. Badanidiyoor.**

A FOOL'S FANCY

"Judas' "Nehru's Little Balkrishna" in the December issue of "filmindia" is a fine piece of constructive criticism. But take it from me that his shouting will not be listened to. The white cap insulated with power is a sound proof gadget besides having many other visible and latent qualities.

"Time and again, Dr. Keskar stated in the Lok and Rajya Sabhas that Government is taking steps to bring down the prices of the radio sets available in the market and that the question of manufacture of a "people's set" is also under its active consideration. Years have rolled by since but the 'steps' and the 'considerations' have not so far seen the light of the day.

"And now we hear that Rs. 2,20,00,000 are going to be spent on the installation of the population owns ordinary radio sets, It goes without saying that in a country like India where a very low percentage of the population own ordinary radio sets, acquiring of a television set would not be less than a Fifty-Year Plan project. But as Judas has pointed out "Little Balkrishna seems to be in a hurry to leave his footprints on the sands of time...." In that case who can check the flights of his fancy?"

ALIGARH. **Bal Krishna.**

HAPPEN ALL OVER

"A friend of mine, Dr. Shanti Malhotra, M.B.B.S.(Pb), L.M.(Rdt.) was in regular employment of the Jammu and Kashmir Government and was sent to Dublin for higher training in Gynaecology and Obstetrics under a scheme sponsored by that Government. After two years of rigorous training she passed her D.G.O. (Dublin) in March 1955.

"But on her return to India she discovered to her utter disappointment that the very post of the Incharge of the Gynaecology and Obstetrics Department of the J. & K. Hospital, for which she had been specially trained, had already been filled by another doctor (Dr. Sawhney) from the same Government, who had passed only D.R.C.O.G. (England). The other doctor has been given precedence over Dr. Shanti mainly because the concerned authorities —both medical and administrative—having no proficiency or erudition in the highly specialized study of G. & O. have failed to recognise the superiority of D.G.O. (Dublin) over D.R.C.O.G. (England). Their preference for the D.R.C.O.G. seems to have been guided by the consideration that D.R.C.O.G. (England) is a longer name than D.G.O. (Dublin), whereas the fact is that the latter is of a much higher standard and comprises a more extensive course than the former. D.G.O. deals with all the branches of Gynaecology and

When women become suddenly affectionate, men get scared. They have so much to lose. Look at Maruti's reaction at Kamal's touch in "Panna", an old tale.

Women often look like that when you suddenly wake them up. It is not a pleasant sight but then those who sleep in double beds cannot avoid it. They have to see women in all their ugly moods and faces. Let us see who has disturbed Chitra in "Basre-ki-Hoor", an Arab tale of love making.

Obstetrics while D.R.C.O.G. confines its study mainly to Obstetrics.

"As a consequence of the smug ignorance of the Jammu and Kashmir authorities, which is obviously arbitrary and unwarranted, Dr. Shanti is being deprived of a good job otherwise well deserved by her.

"That is how things happen in Kashmir, the 'Ianat Nazir' ".

NEW DELHI. **B. M. Malhotra.**

COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA

"To those who are familiar with the yardstick by which you measure a picture, your review of the much boosted picture "Shri 420" did not come as a surprise. "Shri 420" defames the graduates in general and the Allahabad University in particular. Bombay, which is a byword for a city of opportunity to the enterprising, is depicted as a den of vice and hotbed of crooks and criminals. What a grand story! Why, here is a person who does not take to the ordinary mode of travel generally adopted by a man of the meanest intelligence but dances, jumps, rides and runs all the several hundred miles from Allahabad to Bombay; who does not know where to seek a job but goes to a wayside beggar to get "enlightenment"; and whose proficiency in arithmetic as seen in his banana bargain will shame even a child of four. And yet we are asked to believe that he is a graduate of a famous university and a medallist at that! Hot ice indeed! You have most aptly put it in a nutshell by stating that this picture is an idiot's delight.

"We are told that it is a picture with a moral. The picture justifies, nay glorifies, fraudulent methods of making money. The hero who does not hesitate to resort to all kinds of crimes like gambling, cheating, floating bogus companies etc., goes away scot free in the end. What a moral! Is this the story to be expected from one who calls himself a progressive writer? Let there be a dozen more pictures like this one and our ideal of a Welfare State will be buried ten fathoms deep."

POONA. **H. Syamala Bai.**

I AGREE

"We know now that Sohrab Modi's "Mirza Ghalib" got the President's Gold Medal. Without prejudice to either Sohrab Modi or to those who glorified inaccuracies in Mirza Ghalib's life by recommending the film on his life for the President's Gold Medal, we wish to submit our protest to the authorities that it is better not to award the Gold Medal at all to any film rather than select such trashes for the President's Gold Medal. What do you think, Mr. Patel?"

CALCUTTA. **Ebenezer S. Soans.**

RETAKES POSSIBLE

"After digesting your impartial review of V. Shantaram's "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje", I saw the film at the "Orient" on 4-12-1955. Before the screening of "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje", Films Division's trash of Bulganin's visit to Nehru Peacewallah's New Delhi and Morarji Prohibitionwallah's Bombay etc., was screened. We were taken aback to see the Films Division's incompetence in this film. The newsreel of their visit was shaky and very slow in speed and the cameraman did succeed in giving us many out-of-focus shots too. Mr. Patel, it is high time you used your powerful pen more vigorously and saw to it that the Films Division changed their incompetent cameramen at least now so that we don't miss such historical events in future. We can't ask our distinguished guests to repeat their performance for takes and retakes like Dilip Kumar and Ashok Kumar."

CALCUTTA. **Ebenezer S. Soans.**

REALLY, MENON?

"With great expectations I went to see and enjoy "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje" with my two friends who are Shantaram fans (but not Sandhya fans).

"Because it was a Shantaram's picture and more so a Technicolor production handled by Indian technicians, we were sure of an excellent show. To tell you the truth, after the picture we had to consume a few tablets of Anacin. What saved us from boredom was the good camera work of Balkrishna and Kanu Desai's art. Dewan Sharar's story matter was good, but Shantaram's attempt to exploit Sandhya to the extreme spoiled the spirit of the theme. I felt like vomiting at the sight of the crude movements and inartistic dance execution of Sandhya and her monstrous lip make-up which seemed as if two Mount Everests were painted on her upper lip. I wonder why the otherwise ever alert censors kept quiet without raising a single objection on Sandhya's "Menaka"—nothing but favouritism to Shantaram by the censors! Other producers please note.

"God alone knows what inspired Shantaram to produce this costly Technicolor picture in the name of glorifying Indian dance. If this is Indian dance, any circus artiste is a better dancer than Shantaram's artistes. Let him please note that "Dance of Shiva" is not a circus feat.

"Minus Kanu Desai's art and Balkrishna's excellent camera work, "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje" is a picture India should be ashamed of."

TRIPUNITHURA. **Madhav Menon.**

HELSINKI
CITY OF COURAGE

HELSINKI, the capital of Finland, is a name well-known to most sports-lovers in the world today. This place was the venue of the XVth Olympic Games in 1952, when 5867 athletes representing 69 participating nations, including India, converged here for a healthy display of human vigour, stamina and agility in a spirit of friendly rivalry and cordial competition. Like most other participants must have done, Indian visitors to the Helsinki sports meet, came back impressed to glowingly talk of "charming Helsinki" and "hospitable Finns". And they were not wrong. Helsinki is a charming place just as Finns are a courteous and courageous people.

Situated in North Europe, Finland occupies a total area of 130,085 sq. miles, between the Gulf of Bothnia on its west and the Gulf of Finland on its south, and bounded on the east by Russia, on the north by Norway and on the west by Sweden. Stretched longitudinally with about one-third of its total length lying north of the Arctic Circle, it is a cold country dominated by nature which reigns over 87% of the land — 71% being forest and 16% wasteland — leaving only 13% as field, and which keeps practically the whole country covered with a thick layer of snow for nearly five months beginning from the middle of November and lasting till late in April.

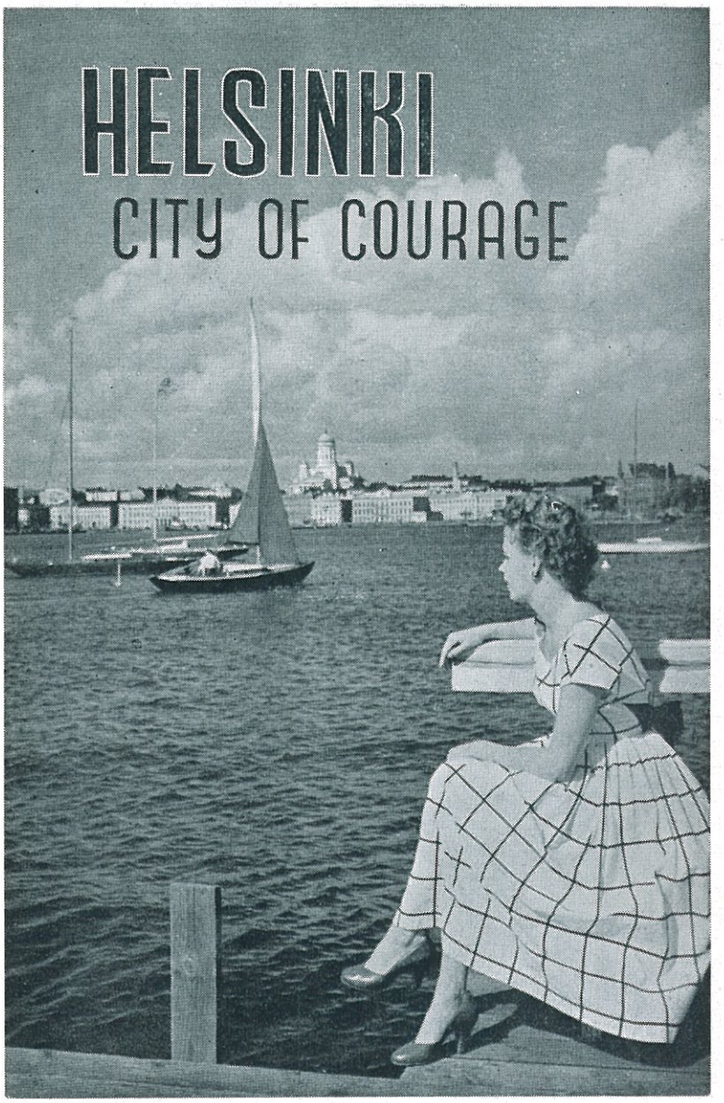
The Cathedral of St. Nicholas is one among the many structures of considerable architectural distinction in Helsinki.

Its coastline is deeply indented with about 30,000 islands clustered off the coast, its interior is cluttered with a maze of large lakes and rocky basins filled with water comprising in all as many as 60,000 lakes, and its most common type of soil consists of deposits left by glaciers of the Ice Age. Finland is aptly called "the land of the thousand lakes", and being the land it is and having the climate it has, it is little wonder that the population of Finland is only 4,200,000, about as much as that of Greater Bombay plus any other small Indian town. And the density of population in Finland is only 31.7 inhabitants per square mile.

TARGET OF ENVY

Finns belong to the Ural-Altaic race and are believed to have migrated to Finland during the eighth century, after having been expelled from their original home between the bend of the Volga and the Ural mountains. For a couple of centuries they lived as pagans till in the twelfth century the Roman Catholic Church began inspiring Swedish crusades to Finland. After three crusades, by the end of the thirteenth century, the Swedes conquered the Finns completely and Christianity became the Finns' religion. For next 500 years Finns lived under the subjugation of Sweden albeit enjoying some measure of autonomy. While Sweden kept Finland subjugated, Russia kept on throwing lusty glances and making aggressive gestures at Finland. The cordiality of relations that have existed through history between Finland and her eastern neighbour Russia, is indicated by the fact that so far Finland and Russia have been at active war with each other at least eleven times during history. After appropriating big chunks of Finnish territory from Swedish-controlled Finland, the Russians got Sweden to surrender Finland to Russia in 1809. And the Finns who had not been able to win their independence in spite of fighting a marathon war with Sweden during 1630-48, now became slaves of the Russians.

But Finns continued to groan and squirm and at last heaved the Russian yoke off when the Russian Czarist Empire collapsed during the Bolshevik revolution of 1917. On December 6, Finland declared itself independent and after a short involvement in a Bolshevik-sponsored civil war in which the Bolshevists were defeated, emerged for the first time in history as a free and sovereign nation.



Helsinki, or Helsingfors as it is called in Swedish, is a breezy, beautiful and colourful city, surrounded on three sides by the sea and facing a bunch of picturesque little islands. It is additionally a fine port having three fine harbours, all with granite quays. This is a view of the South Harbour.

Finland, however, still had more unhappy days to see and still two more wars to fight against Russia, one in which most of the world sympathised with it and another in which it played the inglorious part of an Axis partner during the World War II. Shortly after Germany declared war in Europe, Russia asserted that the Finnish troop concentrations in the neighbourhood of Leningrad posed a threat to Russia, made certain demands on Finland and when they were not met, denounced the non-aggression pact with Finland, and on November 30 began an attack on Finland by bombing Helsinki from air. The war lasted only a few months and the Finnish defence under Field-Marshal Mannerheim was broken down by early March 1940 and the Peace Treaty was signed in Moscow.

For this invasion of Finland, Russia was almost unanimously denounced as an expansionist belligerent, but all agree that in this manoeuvre Russia displayed

Eduskuntatalo, or Parliament House, is a fine, imposing building on Mannerheimintie. It was designed by J. S. Siren, an architect with classical leanings.

a remarkable foresight about its security in view of the German attack on Russia and the invasion of Norway which were to come in the following years. When Hitler invaded Russia in 1941, Finland quickly joined the Axis against the Allies and did its bit to harass Russia and help Hitler. This campaign against Russia was again under Mannerheim but the Russians managed to end Finland's career as an Axis ally in 1944 and an armistice was signed in Moscow on September 19 by Russia, Great Britain and Finland. The terms of the armistice revealed a determined bid by Russia to ensure the elimination of Finland as a source of trouble in future and under it Finland had to pay heavy penalties for its misadventure during the world war.

PRICE OF PEACE

Under the terms of the Armistice Agreement, Finland had to again cede to Russia those parts in Finnish Karelia and in the North which it had surrendered to the Soviet Union in 1940. The Armistice also compelled Finland to cede the northernmost province of Petsamo with its port to Russia, to lease to the Russians for 50 years the Porkkala district, situated a dozen miles southwest of Helsinki, to disarm and hand over to Russians the German troops stationed in Finland (over 200,000 men), to restore her army to peace-time strength, to surrender to the USSR all property in Finland belonging to Germans, to punish her war criminals and to pay war reparations of the total value of 300 million dollars over a period of six years in equal instalments.

Two and a half years later Finland signed the Treaty of Peace with the Allies in Paris in 1947 which prescribed limited armed forces for Finland, and it was forbidden to have anything to do with atomic weapons, guided missiles, sea-mines, torpedoes, submarines, bomber-planes and many other items. By another Agreement between Finland and Russia concluded in 1948 for a period of ten years, Finland is obliged to resist any aggression by Germany or any of her allies on Finland or Russia through Finnish territory, if necessary, with the assistance of the USSR. Further, none of the two countries is to join any alliance or coalition directed against the other. This Agreement, on the Finns' own admission, marked "the beginning of a new era in Finland's history", and because of which "Finnish-Soviet relations were now redirected into normal diplomatic channels and normal practices were thus resumed".

The next few years saw the heroic struggle of the Finns to pay their due penalties. The war reparations nearly broke their back, as can be realized from the fact that in the first "indemnity year" 78% of Finland's total exports were reparations goods delivered to Russia. However, Russia made several concessions, extended the period of payments from six to eight years reducing Finland's annual quota from 50 to 35.6 million dollars, and in the beginning of 1948 with four reparations years still to go Russia waived her claim to 50% of the remaining reparations — nearly 140 million dollars, thus reducing the total amount to about 226.5 million dollars.

In 1952 Finland was free from the burden of the war indemnity, one of the biggest economic burdens in the country's history, and looked forward to a pleasant future of peace and progress. And the Olympic Games of 1952, therefore, truly symbolized the beginning of Finland's march on the highway of progress.

Helsinki, where the Olympics were held, is an old town utterly modern in look which was founded in 1550 by King Gustavus Vasa on the site where River Vantaa flows into the Gulf of Finland. But to make it a worthy rival of Tallinn, situated on the southern coast of the Gulf, in respect of shipping trade, the town was moved to Cape Vironniemi in order to be closer to the open sea. In 1808, a wild, wide-spread fire destroyed most of the town by razing to the ground a huge number of houses conventionally built of wood. But the fire proved to be a blessing in disguise. The town was replanned and rebuilt with taste and skill, and in 1812 Helsinki

The Mannerheimintie—one of the many broad and beautiful avenues of Helsinki. Many important buildings stand along this popular highway including the Opera House which is seen in the picture in the right foreground.

became the capital of the country.

COLOURFUL CITY

Today, from a town which in 1810 had a population of only 4000, Helsinki has developed into a big, busy and colourful city of about 400,000 inhabitants. Containing clean wide streets, pleasant parks, spacious gardens and impressive monuments, the city testifies to its efficient and tasteful planning. Apart from numerous hotels, cafes and public and private buildings, structures of architectural distinction include the cathedral of St. Nicholas in the principal square, the Parliament House on Mannerheimintie and the University which was designed by C.L. Engel in 1928. The University was originally founded in 1640 at Turku (Abo) but was removed to Helsinki after it was burned down in 1827.

Helsinki is rich in museums and art houses. The Ateneum Art Gallery, Municipal Museum, National Museum, Mission Museum, Mannerheim Museum, Military Museum, Seurassari Museum, Taidehalli Art Gallery and Suomen Urheilumuseo (Finland's Sports Museum at the Stadium) are some of them. Other places of interest in Helsinki include the City Botanical Garden, the Fortress of Finland (Suomenlinna), the Palotorni Fire Brigade watch tower for a panoramic view of the city, the Linnanmaki Amusement Park, and of course the Olympic Staduim.

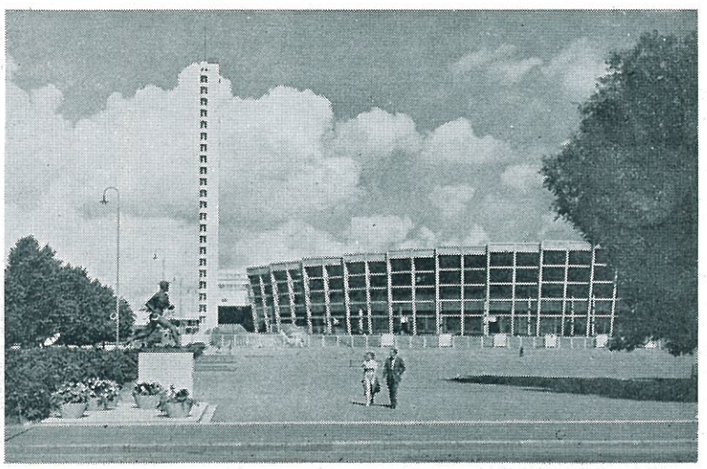
Helsinki is not only the administrative centre of the country but the hub of Finland's all cultural and commercial life. There are a number of theatres, concert halls and an Opera founded 80 years ago. Helsinki is also the scene of the biggest annual musical event in the Nordic countries — the Sibelius Festival. This Festival of tradition and renown is held every year in the middle of June under the patronage of the President of Finland, the programme providing mainly Finnish music with emphasis on the compositions of Jean Sibelius — the 90-year old composer whose achievements in the orchestral field are said to be the greatest since Brahms and whose name is now usually bracketed with Beethoven.

WHITE CITY

Being situated on a peninsula of irregular shape, Helsinki has been able to have three fine harbours on three sides. The main harbour is divided into two by a promontory and is protected from the open sea by a group of small islands. The third harbour is situated on the western side of the promontory, with all three harbours having granite quays. A visitor aboard a ship approaching the Helsinki harbour notices the light coloured buildings near the shore and may well find justification in them for Helsinki's Swedish name Helsingfors meaning "White City of the North".

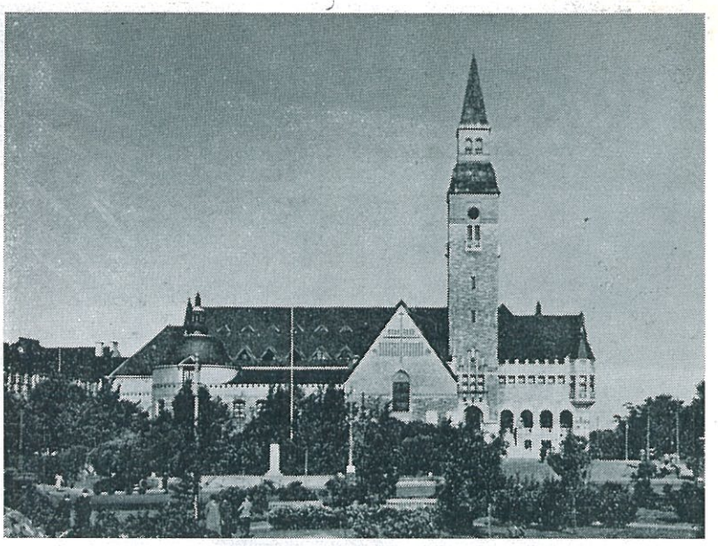
That is not a Congressman in Gandhi cap distributing fruits to Finnish blondes. That is a Finnish fruit vendor at his daily work at the Helsinki Market Place in front of the City Hall.

The famous Helsinki Stadium where over 5800 athletes from about 70 countries collected for the Olympic Games of 1952. On the left is the statue of Paavo Nurmi, the celebrated runner of Finland during 1920's, who held as many as 24 official world records. The statue is the work of the foremost Finnish sculptor Waino Aaltonen.



Helsinki is also an important manufacturing city and among its manufactures are tobacco, beer, spirits, carpets, machinery and sugar. Another interesting thing in Helsinki, as in all Finland, is the existence of saunas. The Finnish sauna is a bathhouse provided with stoves full of heated cobblestones. Water is thrown over the hot stones to produce steam and bathers bathe in steam and sweat produced by the heat, often warming themselves by rubbing their bodies with whisks made of birch leaves and twigs. In a country where the temperature often goes below freezing point, the thrill of a sauna bath cannot be exaggerated. And of the rural type of saunas alone there are 350,000 in Finland.

In the field of literature, science and education, Finland is quite advanced. There are three universities, two being in Turku besides the one in Helsinki. Education is so advanced that Finland boasts of being a country with one of the highest percentage of literacy. In 1952 there were appearing in Finland 114 newspapers, 62 being dailies, as well as 750 periodicals. In the same year the number of holders of radio licences was 817,000 and how big the number is can be seen by comparing it with the number of licensees of radio sets in India which is only 835,246 in a population of 367 million people. Finland can also boast of Nov-



Kansallimuseo, or National Museum, on Mannerheimintie. The Museum has three sections: prehistoric, where are kept mainly collections relating to Finland; historic, and ethnographic.

elist Eemil Silanpaa who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1939, and of Biochemist Ilmari Virtanen who bagged the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1945.

Today both Finnish, which is spoken by over 91% of the population, and Swedish, spoken by less than 9% of the people, are the national languages of the Republic of Finland. In spite of Finnish being established as a literary language in the 15th century, Swedish had continued to be the language of administration and education till the latter part of the 19th century. And there was language strife between Finnish and Swedish-speaking groups for many years but in 1863, Finnish was accepted, in principle, as an official language of the country on an equal footing with Swedish, even though the measure became completely effective only after 20 years.

Though once 70% of Finland's population consisted of farmers and farm labourers, the 1950 census revealed that only 35-38% of the population was engaged in agriculture. Still, forests form the chief basis of Finland's economy. The main species of trees are pine, spruce, birch and aspen, and the main exports are the output of the saw mills and wood pulp factories. Finland is one of the world's leading producers and exporters of wood and paper products. Besides forestry, fishing is another prosperous industry with salmon, trout, perch etc. abounding in the abundant lakes and rivers of Finland.

DEMOCRATIC LAND

Politically, Finland professes democracy of the Western variety believing in the principles of private ownership and free enterprise. It has a unicameral Parliament consisting of 200 members elected for three years by secret ballot and universal suffrage, the voting age being 21. The President, who is elected for six years by an electoral college, is the head of the state, who shares his authority with Parliament and administrative functions with a Council of State (Cabinet) headed by a Prime Minister. It is interesting to note that Finland was the first country to grant suffrage to women, having conceded women the right to vote as early as in 1907. And today there seem to be more women voters in Finland than men because in population women outnumber men, there being 1233 women for every 1000 men in cities and market towns, and 1030 women for every 1000 men in rural areas.

Besides Helsinki there are only two cities in Finland with a population of over 100,000. Turku, Finland's old capital, with a population of 120,000 is the second largest city, while Tampere, the biggest industrial city, with a population of 110,000 is the third largest city. Both are handsome cities and worth visiting. Other places holding attraction for the tourist are Lahti, a small but modern town and the site of the famous Finnish Winter Games, and Hameenlinna, an idyllic town with the nearby Hotel Aulanko which, situated in the midst of picturesque lakeland, remains in the memory of the tourist long after he has left Finland. The more adventurous tourist may also visit Rovaniemi, capital of Lapland. Rovaniemi is described as the "Gateway of the North" and Lapland with its falls, the Midnight Sun, snow and winter sports, and with its proud but rare race of Lapps, is a spot of fascination.

But above all, it is Helsinki, which epitomising the political, cultural, educational and commercial life of Finland, leaves a lasting impression on the visitor. It is the charming capital of a small, sturdy country which has just emerged from the woods of suffering and subjugation to begin its first steady march in history on a clear road of progress. And one who has once visited Helsinki would never be unwilling to return to this "White City of the North".

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The Mannerheim Museum. Once the home of Gustaf Mannerheim, Marshal of Finland (1942), the place is kept in its original form and contains the late soldier's trophies and relics.

Aeroplanes In Ancient India

Bombay Man—A World Pioneer

By : Sudhakar Raje

Extensive research by eminent Indologists all over the world has by now established the fact that ancient India was surprisingly advanced in what is popularly supposed to be 'modern' science. But the recent sensational discovery of an old Sanskrit manuscript on the science of aeronautics by the Director of the International Academy of Sanskrit Research at Mysore, India, has opened a still newer vista and throws startling fresh light on the scientific and mechanical achievements of the ancient Hindus. This treatise is titled "Vaimanika Shastra" (Science of Aeronautics) and is written by one of the greatest all-round scientists of ancient India, Maharishi Bharadwaja.

Bharadwaja's book—its period is as yet unascertained—contains eight chapters and five hundred "sutras" (aphorisms) wherein are described the methods of constructing various types of aircraft. Planes which 'will not break' (Sanskrit: abhedya), or catch fire (adaahya) and which cannot be cut (achchedya) have also been described. According to the manuscript the aeroplane had thirty-one parts, and the metals which absorb heat and light and are, therefore, suitable for the construction of aircraft, belong to sixteen kinds. Along with the treatise diagrams of three types of aeroplanes—"Sundara", "Shukana" and "Rukma"—have also been discovered. The existence of actual diagrams lends considerable authenticity to the book which can no more be dismissed as just imagination.

But though this particular book has come to light only very recently, researches into ancient Hindu aeronautics have been continuing for a good thirty years. The late Mr. Krishnaji Vinayak Vaze, a scholar with forty years' research work in the field of ancient Hindu science of "Shilpa Shastra" (Engineering) to his credit, has written a book titled "Bharatiya Shilpa Shastra Sara" which was published in 1924. The tenth chapter of this book is on "Viman Shastra" (Science of the Aeroplane) and states that the scientist-sages Agastya and Bharadwaja had developed the lore of aircraft construction.

At the time the book was written, however, Mr. Vaze had not found Bharadwaja's manuscript, though he knew of its existence. Even of the work of Agastya, who seems to have preceded Bharadwaja by some centuries, he came across only four stray pages in a collection of old manuscripts. They are from the "Agastya Samhita", the only work on aeronautics among the eighteen "samhitas" (ancient treatises) on "Shilpa Shastra" or engineering. This book, again, is divided into two parts and the part relating to aeroplanes in particular is titled "Agni-yana", "agni" being Sanskrit for fire and "yana" for vehicle. The name refers not to the use of fire in flying planes—it was not so used—but to the utility aircraft in crossing over when the enemy had scorched the intervening territory.

These pages of the "Agastya Samhita" give us Agastya's descriptions of two types of aeroplanes. The first of these is a "chchatra" (umbrella or balloon), to be filled with hydrogen. The process of extracting hydrogen from water is described in elaborate detail and the use of electricity in achieving this is clearly stated. It is then stated that a balloon made of silken cloth, treated chemically by a long process to make it air-tight and durable, was to be filled with this gas and a seat of light wood attached to it. As hydrogen is lighter than air this balloon would float in the sky. This was stated to be a primitive type of plane, useful only for escaping from a fort when the enemy had set fire to the jungle all around. Hence the name "agniyana".

Agastya also recommended the use of trained birds to guide the balloon in any desired direction. But of this no details are available. The second type of aircraft mentioned in the works of Agastya is somewhat on the lines of the parachute. It could be opened and shut by operating chords. This aircraft has been described as "vimanadvigunam" i.e. of a lower order than the regular aeroplane.

In the Rajput days women also carried swords very often to brag about their warrior stock. We don't know the length of Purnima's sword but it makes Chandrashekhar think twice in "Panna", a thrilling episode of history.

As for Bharadwaja's work Mr. Vaze ultimately found some pages of an edition of his treatise at the Oriental Institute at Baroda, a Princely State in former British India, where they were lying since 1918. These pages, containing only the first four "sutras" with commentary, obviously belong to another copy of the same work as found at Mysore. For the opening stanzas of both state that the work consists of five hundred aphorisms and eight chapters. Also both mention that the aeroplane has thirty-one parts.

In the year 1943 a noted Vedic research scholar, Mr. Priyaratna Arsha, published this fragment found at Baroda along with a translation and commentary in Hindi. As even this small booklet explaining only four aphorisms consists of fifty-eight pages it can be seen that the original work containing all five hundred aphorisms must have been quite a formidable compilation. In fact it is known that Bharadwaja wrote a far bigger book on mechanics called "Yantra Sarvaswa" (meaning 'all about mechanics') containing forty chapters of which the couplets on aeroplanes formed only one chapter.

It is further learnt that the copy of Bharadwaja's work obtained by the International Academy at Mysore was recovered from the grandson of Mr. Subbaraya Shastri, a noted Sanskritist of Bangalore who died in 1940. This is a collection of twenty-three notebooks of hand-written matter, containing about fifteen times the material contained in the Baroda fragment. And yet, according to a reliable source that had the opportunity to inspect the manuscript at first hand at the owner's place, the notebook may not contain all the five hundred couplets of Bharadwaja.

Bharadwaja's "Vaimanika Shastra" not only gives information on his methods of aeroplane construction but also provides a bibliography. He had consulted six treatises by six different authors, previous to him, and he gives their names and the names of their works in the following order: "Vimana Chandrika" by Narayana; "Vyoma Yana Mantrah" by Shounaka; "Yantra Kalpah" by Garg; "Yana Bindu" by Vachaspati; "Kheta Yana Pradeepika" by Chandrayani, and "Vyoma Yanarka Prakashah"

Love teases the brain to think and thinking makes a woman old. An empty head is necessary to keep the face beautiful but then men set up new problems in love and make women prematurely old. Poor Madhubala has a problem to solve in "Shirin Farhad", a romantic tale.

by Dhundinath. As before Bharadwaja, after him too there have been Sanskrit writers on aeronautics and Mr. Vaze mentions that there were four commentaries on Bharadwaja's work. The names of the commentators are Bodh Deva, Lalla, Narayana Shankha and Vishwambhara.

Bharadwaja states that there are thirty-two 'secrets' of the Science of Aeronautics. Of these some are astonishing and some indicate an advance even beyond our own times. For instance the secret of "para shabda graaha", i.e. a cabin for listening to conversation in another plane, has been explained by elaborately describing an electrically worked sound-receiver that did the trick. Another secret is something akin to television. For it is described as follows: "Turn the lower key in the aeroplane and thereby spread out the screen. Then charge with power the three liquids in the north-eastern corner and hold the power in the seventh class of the sun's rays. Then bring the screen opposite the mirror, spread the power before it and turn the top key. When this is done everything below the plane up to the earth, including movements in the air, will become pictured on the screen and you can see what is going on below." The process of preparing this cinematographic screen is also described, which means the technique of photography was not unknown in those times.

These 'secrets' obviously take for granted the existence of several 'keys' in the aeroplane and a central chamber of power. In fact there are descriptions of endless knobs and keys (keeli) which performed various functions. Such phrases as "vimanadhah keeli chalanam", "vimana mukha kendra chalanat", "pashchat keeli chalanena" etc. indicate that these planes were equipped with complex machinery. Then there are amazing descriptions of a telescope fitted into the plane, of a mechanism by which directions could be ascertained as also of different types of protective garments for the pilots.

It appears aerial warfare was also not unknown, for the treatise gives the technique of "shatru vimana kampana kriya" and "shatru vimana nashana kriya" i.e. shaking and destroying enemy aircraft, as well as photographing enemy planes, rendering their occupants unconscious and making one's own plane invisible. Another secret describes escaping from encirclement by enemy aircraft in the following words: "By turning the key to the power chamber of the plane the speed of the plane can be instantaneously increased to four thousand and eighty-seven 'waves'." This indicates that speed was possibly measured in units of water waves. Another secret refers to a measure of heat. It describes emitting fire on the enemy plane through a tube and states that the heat of the tube should be increased to eighty-seven measures called "lingk" in Sanskrit.

It is to be noted that in the past many Western scholars have also asserted that the ancient Indians were far advanced in all branches of aeronautics and that they had known the science of aerial warfare also. For instance Principal Churchwood of the Mount Vernon University, a leading thinker of the United States, has already written in his famous book "Aerial Warfare In Ancient India", reviewed in the Statesman (Calcutta) on November 26, 1934, that as far back as 1200 years ago aeroplanes were being used in India for military as well as commercial purposes every day. In ancient India it was usual for a businessman of Kalinga (in South India) to go to Colombo daily after breakfast and return home for supper.

Further, the great theosophist Col. Olcott in a lecture in Allahabad in 1881, as reported in the March number of the "Theosophist" of that year, declared, "The ancient Hindus could navigate the air, and not only navigate it but fight battles in it like so many war-eagles, combating for the domination of the clouds. To be so perfect in aeronautics they must have known all the arts and sciences relating to the science, including the strata and currents of the atmosphere, the relative temperature, humidity, density and specific gravity of the various gases... .."

TALPADES OF BOMBAY

Perhaps the most interesting thing, however, about the Hindu science of aeronautics and Bharadwaja's research in the field was that they were successfully tested in actual practice by an Indian just fifty years ago. The man who did it when even the names of Count Zeppelin and the Wright brothers were practically unknown, was Shivkar Bapuji Talpade. His experiment took place in Bombay.

Mr. Talpade, a resident of Bombay, was an erudite scholar of Sanskrit literature, especially of the Vedas, an inventor and a teacher in the School of Arts. His deep study of the Vedas led him to construct an aeroplane in comformity with descriptions of aircraft available in the Vedas and he displayed it in an exhibition arranged by the Bombay Art Society in the Town Hall. Its proving the star attraction of the exhibition encouraged its maker to go deeper into the matter and see if the plane could be flown with the aid of mercurial pressure. For the one hundred and ninetieth "richa" (verse) of the Rig Veda and the aeronautical treatise of Bharadwaja mention that flying machines came into full operation when the power of the sun's rays, mercury and another chemical called "Naksha rassa" were blended together. This energy was, it seems, stored into something like an accumulator or storage batteries. The Vedas refer to eight different engines in the plane and Bharadwaja adds that they are worked by electricity.

Mr. Talpade carried on his research along these lines and constructed an aeroplane. In his experiments he was aided by his wife, also a deep scholar of the Vedic lore, and an architect friend. The plane combined the constructional characteristics of both "Pushpaka" and "Marut Sakha", the sixth and eighth types of aircraft described by Bharadwaja. It was named "Marut Sakha" meaning "Friend of the Wind".

With this plane this pioneer airman of modern India gave a thrilling demonstration flight on the Chowpatty beach in Bombay in the year 1895. The machine attained a height of about 1500 feet and then automatically landed safely. The flight was witnessed, among many others, by the late Sir Sayajirao Gaekwar, Maharaja of Baroda and Justice Mahadev Govind Ranade. They were impressed by the feat and rewarded the talented inventor. Unfortunately Talpade lost interest in things after his wife's death, and after his own death in 1917 at the age of 53 his relatives sold the machine to Rally Brothers, a leading British exporting firm then operating in Bombay. Thus the first ever attempt at flying in modern India, undertaken and made successful by an Indian, in a plane of Indian manufacture and built to Indian scientific specifications, slid into the limbo of oblivion.

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